ANNALS OF HYDE AND DISTRICT.

WITH HISTORICAL REMINISCENCES
OF
DENTON, HAUGHTON, DUKINFIELD,
MOTTRAM, LONGDENDALE
BREDBURY, MARPLE,

AND THE
NEIGHBOURING TOWNSHIPS.

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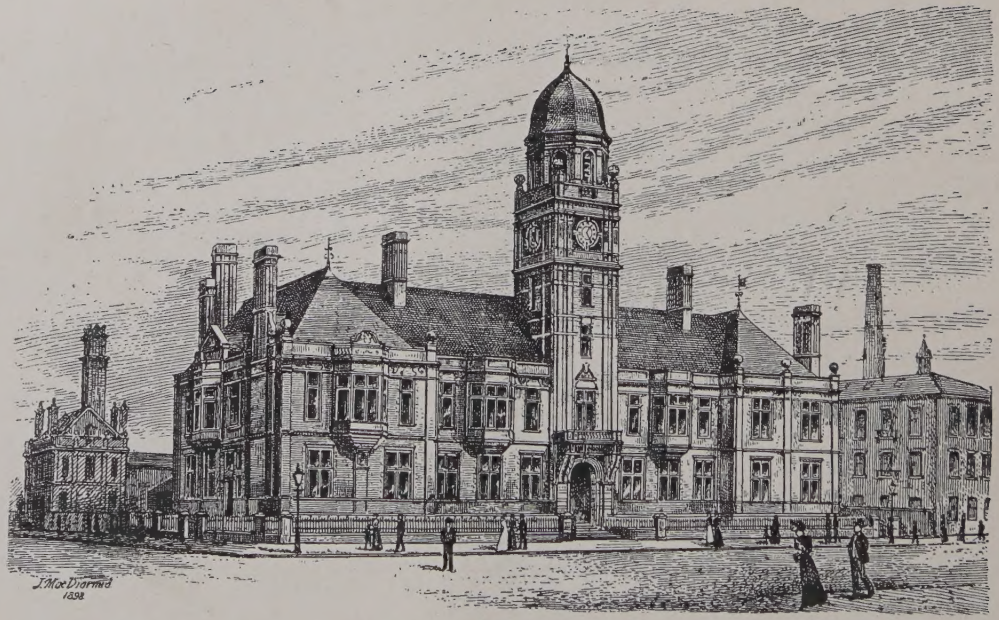

HYDE TOWN HALL.

U527.

ANNALS OF HYDE

AND DISTRICT.

Containing Historical Reminiscences of

DENTON, HAUGHTON, DUKINFIELD,
MOTTRAM, LONGDENDALE,
BREDBURY, MARPLE,
AND THE NEIGHBOURING TOWNSHIPS.

BY THOMAS MIDDLETON.

"Still linger in our Northern clime
Some remnants of the good old time;
And still within our valleys here
We hold the kindred title dear."
—*Scott.*

"Ye who love a nation's legends,
Love the ballads of a people,
That, like voices from afar off,
Call to us to pause and listen.
. . . . . .
Listen to this simple story."
—*Longfellow*

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PREFACE.

My warmest thanks are due to all those who have been good enough to supply me with historical data, old documents, and details of folk-lore.

I must express my deep obligations to the officials of several neighbouring public libraries, upon whose patience my many calls for the files of old newspapers must have proved severely trying.

To the Rev. W. G. Bridges, M.A., Vicar of St. George's; to the Rev. J. Batey, M.A., Author of "A History of St. George's Church"; to Messrs. J. Tymm and T. Kenworthy, of Godley, and to Mr. F. Weston, of Denton, I am indebted for several illustrations which figure in these pages. The executors of the late Dr. Heginbotham (Author of 'Stockport: Ancient and Modern') very kindly granted the use of the portraits of John Bradshawe, the Arms of Bradshawe-Isherwood, and Robert Dukinfield, and the views of Bredbury Hall, Marple Hall, and Chadkirk Chapel.

In this connection I must also mention the services of Mr. John MacDiarmid, a kinsman of Sir Noel Paton, and an artist of exceptional ability. Mr. MacDiarmid's artistic skill is known and recognised in Hyde, and it has been my good fortune to secure his aid in the present undertaking. The products of his pencil which brighten the pages of this work not only speak to the genius of the artist, but they will serve the purpose of awakening a new interest in local history and local relics of bye-gone days.

To Mr. Robert Hamnet, of Glossop, I am indebted for many facts and incidents concerning Longdendale, also for the loan of the prehistoric and Roman items, sketches of which appear within these pages. Mr. Samuel Hadfield, Mr. Councillor Brownson, Mr. John Chorton, Mr. Joshua Oldham, Mr. T. Drinkwater, the Rev. David Rowe, Mr. J. W. Sidebotham, M.P., and others, have given information on many points of interest. The proprietors of the *North Cheshire Herald* generously granted the use of their files and assisted me in other ways. I also owe

much to the practical experience and advice of Mr. James Deakin, whose careful scrutiny of this work while in the press has been of great value.

The facts from which the last portions of "Bits of Old-time Hyde" have been written were collected and placed at my disposal by Mr. John Thornely, for some years an Alderman of the Borough of Hyde, and one of the founders of its municipal life. The descendant of a family connected with Hyde for a period of 300 years, Mr. Thornely has taken a life-interest in garnering the fragments of past days. His collection has been most valuable to me, and I would here place on record a recognition of his kindness and encouragement, and my gratitude to him for many stories which form not the least interesting feature of this book.

Equally strongly would I express my thanks to Mr. John Clarke, of Brook House, Oswestry—the last surviving member of Captain Clarke's family—for the interesting details I have had from him, the paintings and illustrations he has supplied, and, above all, for the generous encouragement he has given and the extreme kindness shown at all times, by his willingness to make any sacrifice to enhance the value of the book.

To Mr. John Turner Cartwright my thanks are due for the general interest he has taken in the work, and the exertions he has made to ensure the success of the book from every point of view. Our relations in this have been something more than ordinarily exists between publisher and writer, and I should be wanting in gratitude if I omitted mention here.

Finally, this book—the outcome of ten years' labour in the field of local historical research—is my tribute of affection and regard to my native town. I have to confess to some timidity in submitting this literary offspring to the criticism and attention of the reader. Its many defects are sadly too apparent, but I suffer it to wander forth in the hope that the intentions which conceived it, and the subjects with which it deals, may lead the public to overlook its faults. If it succeeds in rescuing some of the history of the neighbourhood from decay and oblivion, the realization of the writer's wishes will be attained.

Hyde, 1899. THOMAS MIDDLETON.

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INTRODUCTORY.

RIOR to its connection with the cotton industry, Hyde had no separate history; it was merely an outlying township of the ancient parish of Stockport, and its story was merged in the general history of the neighbourhood.

In view of this, the first portion of the present book is devoted to a brief epitome of the history of district from the earliest ages to the dawn of the 19th century. The second portion deals with the town of Hyde, its men of note, its old customs and traditions. The old halls and families of the district, the men who have attained a more than local reputation, and the history of the surrounding townships, are given in the last three sections.

The earliest references to modern Hyde are contained in Aiken's "Forty Miles Round Manchester," published in 1795, and in a History of Cheshire written 20 years later.

Aiken, speaking of this district, says: "Near the commencement of the Eastern Horn of Cheshire, which runs up into the wild country bordering on Yorkshire and the Peak of Derbyshire, is Hyde Chapel, or, as it is now called, Gee Cross. The chapel is a Dissenting place of worship. About 25 years ago there was only one house besides; now the place looks like a little town, and forms a continued street of nearly a mile; *near it is Red Pump Street, a new village lately built by Mr. Sidebotham.*"

In a work entitled "Cheshire; or, Original Delineations: Topographical, Historical, and Descriptive of that County: the result of personal survey by E. W. Brayley and J. Briton," published in 1818, this passage occurs:—"Hyde Chapel, or Gee Cross as it is now generally denominated, is a small village

which obtained its primary name from a chapel for Dissenters, which, with a solitary house, were the only structures here till within these 40 years. The place now resembles a small town, and the houses range along each side of the road for nearly a mile ; *near it is a new village lately built and called Red Pump Street.*"

It is noteworthy that the above writers make no mention of either town or village of Hyde by the present name. A map of the "Environs of Mottram-in-Longdendale," which accompanies Aiken's book, gives the names of such familiar places as Hyde Hall, Hyde Chapel, Godley Green, Gibraltar, Smithy Fold, Newton Green, Newton Hall, and Harrop Edge, but beyond the location of *Red Pump Street* no trace of Hyde is found.

The name *Red Pump Street* (which was given to a row of cottages built by Mr. Hegginbottom, and not by Mr. Sidebotham, as Aiken states) was the name by which modern Hyde was first known. Later, we find the name of *Hyde Lane* (the principal road from Red Pump Street to Gee Cross) used to designate the growing village. Finally, with the increase of the population, the name of the township seems to have become generally used.

PART I.

GENERAL HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT.

"Love thou thy land with love far brought
From out the storied past."

Tennyson.

CHAPTER I.

IN PREHISTORIC DAYS.

"The days which are forgotten,
The unremembered ages."

Longfellow.

IKE the rest of England, this district was opened out to civilization and the notice of historians by the occupation of the Roman forces, who first invaded Britain about 55 years before the Christian Era. Julius Cæsar, who was at that time the Roman Governor in Gaul, crossed the channel with a large force and defeated the Britons. The following year he led a second expedition to this country, and, according to his own account, established the Roman supremacy in the southern portion of the island.

It was, however, fully a hundred years after the date of Cæsar's first landing in Britain ere Lancashire and Cheshire submitted to the Roman yoke. The people led a wandering, unsettled life, and were divided into many tribes which were frequently at war with each other. Cheshire was inhabited by a tribe called the Cornavii, and Lancashire was occupied by the Brigantes. The first-named, in the most flourishing period of their history, made themselves masters of Staffordshire and portions of Worcestershire, Warwickshire, Shropshire, and Flintshire; and the territory of the Brigantes included all the English counties north of the Mersey and the Humber. Both nations were numerically great and very brave, and long maintained a defiant struggle against the Romans. The Brigantes especially are described as one of the most powerful of the British tribes, and they are mentioned more frequently than any other by the Roman writers. Tacitus, who speaks of them as one of the most numerous branches of the Britons, describes the

wars of their great chief Venusius, who, after the death of Caractacus, was accounted the ablest warrior that the country possessed. Further, Seneca, in a poem, claims great honour for the Emperor Claudius for having, as he expresses it, "conquered the azure-armed Brigantes.

> "O'er Britain he the Imperial sceptre swayed;
> Him the Brigantes, azure-armed, obeyed."

Unfortunately history fails to say what special connection these British races had with the locality of Hyde. There is, however, evidence to show that the district was extensively inhabited in early times, and owing to its position on the boundary between the Brigantes and Cornavii it was probably the scene of many encounters in the pre-Roman period. Dr. Whittaker, in his "History of Manchester," states that the rude military station of *Mancunium* was founded 50 years before the Christian era in consequence of an irruption of the Cheshire Britons. A strong British station was situated at *Bucton Castle*, near Stalybridge, and it is said by some authorities that another stronghold existed at *Mouselow*, an eminence in Longdendale. The latter spot is described by Dr. Watson, who visited it about a century ago, as "a place of great natural strength defended by ditches even now discernible." In its vicinity many weapons of war have been discovered—Roman weapons mingled with arms of a ruder age and race—and from this it is concluded that about here the Britons made a long-sustained attempt to drive back the Roman invaders.

BRITISH SPEAR HEAD FOUND NEAR MOUSELOW CASTLE.

Other places in the neighbourhood have from time to time yielded evidence of British occupation. Remains have been discovered at *Bucton Castle*, also near Ludworth and Mellor, and according to some writers, Manchester, under the name of *Caer Meini*, figured as one of the chief Druid centres, and was a "*Cyfiarth*, or city, the capital of a tribe."

The locality of Charlesworth is also claimed to be rich in ancient British remains, consisting of barrows or cairns. In

these, human bones, urns, acorns, and implements of war have been found; and near Coombs Rocks are many oblong stones bearing the cognomen of Robin Hood's Picking Rods, which are commonly believed to be the remains of some forgotten Druid temple. The historian, Butterworth, who refers to them, makes definite mention of the war between the local ancient Britons and the advancing Roman power. He fixes the scene between Ludworth and Coombs, and states that upon a hard and long-fought field, deeds of the most determined heroism were performed—"one army inspired by conquest and the thirst for military glory, the other fighting for their country's independence." To quote this writer's words: "Though the poet and the historian are silent on this great engagement—for such I consider it to have been—yet, two prodigious mounds, barrows or tumulii, at from a quarter to half a mile distant from each other, on the field of battle, remain to attest the magnitude and consequence of the action. I have been upon them both, and observed that they each consist of some hundred tons of stone heaped together in a circular or rather an oval form, covered with the effect of time; one of them has furze or dwarf gorze growing upon it, and I have seen cows in hot weather standing on their summits for the purpose of inhaling the cooling breeze." The same authority then goes on to record the erection of a Roman trophy stone at some short distance from the field, and deduces evidence of the Druids once existing near.

But the strongest and most trustworthy proof of the fairly populous character of this neighbourhood is afforded by the presence of numerous Roman strongholds. A great people like the Romans would never build a systematic chain of forts in a district that was unpeopled, and where defensive works of such magnitude would not be required. The imperial stations and the military roads connecting them are abundant evidence that the state of the locality was such as to warrant the erection of these buildings, and the maintenance within them of a strong imperial force.

As already stated it was fully a hundred years after the first landing of Julius Cæsar before the Romans thoroughly overcame the northern portion of the islands. The circumstances leading to the subjugation of Lancashire and Cheshire were briefly these. In the reign of Claudius (about 43, A.D.) an army was ordered

into Britain under command of Plautius, Prætor in Gaul, who carried the Roman line well beyond the Thames. In the 9th year of Claudius, Ostorius Scapula was sent into Britain, and he is chronicled as having quelled an insurrection among the Brigantes. The great hero Caractacus was about this time treacherously delivered up to the Roman general by Cartismunda, queen of the Brigantes, and was taken in chains to Rome. The Silures, however, of which tribe Caractacus was king, continued the war with great vigour, and gained considerable advantage over the Romans, a fact which is said to have so troubled Ostorius that he died of grief. He was succeeded by Didius who found himself unable to restore the Brigantine queen who had been deposed by her subjects. After Didius came Veranius who was followed by Suetonius Paulinius in whose regime flourished Boadicea (A.D. 59). Cerealis, who was appointed governor of Britain in the time of Vespasian (70-79 A.D.) defeated the Brigantes and reduced a portion of their country. He was succeeded by Julius Frontinus, whose successor was Agricola, one of the most successful generals, who in a campaign extending over six years subdued the seventeen tribes inhabiting England, and carried the Roman arms almost to the extremity of Scotland.

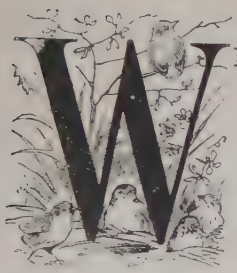
In addition to his military successes, "this great commander," says Hume, "introduced laws and civility among the Britons, taught them to desire and raise all the conveniences of life, reconciled them to the Roman language and manners, instructed them in letters and science, and employed every expedient to render those chains which he had forged both easy and agreeable to them. The inhabitants having experienced how unequal their own force was to resist that of the Romans, acquiesced in the dominion of their masters and were gradually incorporated as a part of that mighty empire."

CHAPTER II.

IN ROMAN TIMES.

"The Roman, too, once made these lands his own ;
Bringing his legions from the distant south."

Leigh.



HEN the great Julius Agricola, who was appointed governor of the Island A.D. 78, eventually accomplished the subjugation of the Britons, he took possession of Cheshire, occupying the county with his own legion.

As their power grew, and their field of conquests widened, the Roman generals erected numerous military stations in different portions of the county as safeguards against insurrection, and as a sure means of firmly establishing their rule. For the same purpose, and in order to ensure a rapid communication between these stations, they began an elaborate improvement of the old roads, and the construction of many new ones. These roads and stations, or rather, their ruined remains, are in abundant evidence in this corner of Cheshire and the borderland of the three adjacent counties of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire. An important station was erected on the site of modern Manchester, and there were six large stations in its immediate neighbourhood :—one of these was at Stockport, another was built in the Longdendale country, and, to go further afield, yet another—almost impregnable in its situation—was perched like an eagle-home on the edge of Coombs Moss, near the modern Chapel-en-le-Frith. The usual lines of communication united all these strongholds, crossing and dividing up the country, and effectively opening it out for the rapid movements of the Roman troops. Several of these roads passed through Stockport, connecting that place with Manchester, Buxton, and Melandra, and later, proving an effectual means of

developing its resources and securing its commercial growth and prosperity. The road between Stockport and Melandra passed over Werneth Low, thence through the wild scenery of the woodlands to the station at Brough, in the lovely Vale of Hope.

Of the stronghold at Manchester, which previous to Agricola's visit in the year 79 had been a British station, and of most of the numerous sister strongholds this is not the place to speak, except in the briefest fashion. But of the Stockport station, and of Melandra, it is desirable and our purpose to make some special mention.

The Castle Hill at Stockport is the site of the ancient Roman fort, and is a position a military people like the Romans would select. It projects from one side of the market place, being joined to it by a narrow neck of land; whilst on three sides, high perpendicular cliffs rendered it almost impregnable. The Roman road into East Cheshire was effectively commanded by it, as also was the adjacent ford—at this point the only ford by which the river Mersey, which winds at the foot of the old station, could be crossed. In after days this "Castle Rock" of the Romans became the site of a castellated Saxon stronghold, and, in later times, was rebuilt by the Normans. Subsequently it figured as a place of importance in the different periods of English history until it was ruthlessly destroyed at the time of the great rebellion. Traces of the Roman residence have from time to time been found at Stockport, and along the course of the old roads leading from the town. Coins and Roman implements were discovered towards the close of the last century, and at Mile End, on the bounds of the Roman roads, were found the remains of an ancient cross and a tessellated pavement. Three years ago, during sewage operations in the town, a Roman brick-kiln was discovered, and large quantities of tiles and bricks of all descriptions were unearthed.

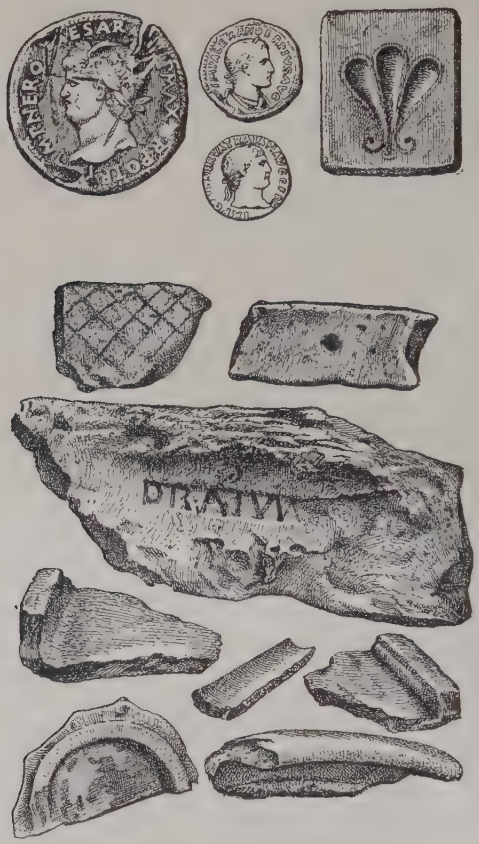
But the great growth—the industrial growth of Stockport, with the essentially modern appearance of the town to-day, has somewhat destroyed or hidden the few archæological remains that cling to many spots on which the Romans reared their lines of might. These remains, however, are neither hidden nor destroyed in the sister stronghold (whose lines are still distinct) in the pastoral tranquility of the Vale of Longdendale.

The Castle of Melandra is dead and gone, as are the legions of the Roman eagle, whose tramp resounded in its courts 2,000 years ago. To-day, the traces of its walls, a scattered group of moss-grown stones, and the memories remain; the rest has passed. The ruin lies upon a hill or promontory that overlooks a portion of the Vale of Longden. The hill is situated at the meeting of two streams, the Glossop Brook and the Etherow; its sides slope steeply to the low lands of the vale. The top, which is square in form, is called by the village folk the "Castle Yard," and around it may still be seen the lines of a vallum or wall, with distinct signs of gates, one situated at each of the four angles. Within and about these walls the earth has given up ample store of the knowledge buried in her womb concerning the days of Melandra's glory. Here Roman coins in plenty have been found—some inscribed "Cæsar Imperator Domitian,"—earthen vases, and a bronze British battle axe. Roman bricks and tiles, and huge square blocks of stone have frequently been dug up; and some years ago, near the south wall, the keystone of an archway, buried from the light for ages, was disclosed to human gaze.

Perhaps the most interesting of these relics of antiquity is an inscribed stone, now in the possession of Lord Howard, of Glossop. Up to a few months ago it occupied a prominent position over the doorway of a cottage standing near, which was built of stones that once formed part of the ancient castle walls. It was discovered in 1771, among the ruins of the stronghold, where it had lain undisturbed for centuries, and on examination there was found upon its surface a curious inscription, which may still be clearly seen, commemorating the presence of the famous Frisian Cohort of the Roman army within Melandra's courts. The inscription is in abbreviated Roman characters, and was first deciphered by the Rev. John Watson, a past Rector of Stockport, and a famous archeologist of his day. His account of the castle, given below, is not only interesting, but contains, in a concise form, much valuable information concerning it.

Mr. Watson says:—"On the south side of the river Mersey, or, as some call it, the Edrow, near Woolley Bridge, in the township of Gamesley and parish of Glossop, in Derbyshire, is a Roman station. . . . . It is situated like many Roman stations on moderately elevated ground within the confluence of

two rivers, and was well supplied with good water. Very fortunately, the plough has not defaced it, so that the form of it cannot be mistaken. The ramparts, which have considerable quantities of hewn stone in them, seem to be about three yards broad. On two of the sides were ditches, of which part remain,



ROMAN COINS, TILES, AND EARTHENWARE DISCOVERED AT MELANDRA CASTLE.

the rest is filled up ; on the other side were such declivities that there was no occasion for this kind of defence. On the North East side, between the station and the water, great numbers of worked

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stones lie promiscuously both above and underground; there is also a subterranean stream of water here, and a large bank of earth, which runs from the station to the river. It seems very plain on this and on the North West sides have been many buildings. . . . . The extent of this station is about 122 yards by 112. The four gates, or openings into it, are exceedingly visible, as is also the formation of a building within the area, about 25 yards square, which in all probability was the prætorium. Very near the East angle the present tenant found, several years ago, as he was searching for stones to build him a house, a stone about 16 inches long and 12 broad, which is now walled up in front of his house, and contains an inscription which I read thus: "Cohortis primae Frisianorum, Centurio Valerius Vitalis." (The Cohort of the first Frisians: Centurion Valerius Vitalis.)

(Photo by W. Hardman, Glossop.)

TROPHY STONE FROM MELANDRA CASTLE.

The property of Rt. Hon. Lord Howard of Glossop.

From these circumstances Dr. Watson was led to the conclusion, which subsequent research would appear to justify, that Melandra was a sister fort to that of Manchester, which place was garrisoned by another part of the Frisian Cohort. He endeavoured further, and with success, to trace the courses of the

Roman roads branching from the station, one of which he found for at least part of its length was used as a modern highway, "being set with large stones in the middle, and having proper drains cut on each side wherever it ran over mossy grounds."

The stone above-mentioned, together with a square stone once possessed by Captain de Hollyngworth, of Hollingworth Hall, and which bore, inside a peculiar border, the Roman characters I M P C, with the letter F. below ; and other stones bearing strange figures in bas-relief, which once stood in the wall of a house at Hadfield, were originally built into the vallum of the fort as trophies. The Frisian troops, to whom the inscriptions on these stones refer, were part of the renowned 20th legion, but of all the numerous officers of this victorious corps who commanded detachments stationed here, Valerius Vitalis is the only one whose name has been preserved. Other discoveries of more than common interest were a stone coffin, found a little to the east of the station in 1841, and a beautiful sepulchral urn of red earthenware, which was dug up at Woolley Bridge about a century ago. Unfortunately, Melandra was long regarded as a free quarry by the farmers in the neighbourhood, who for generations have used its stones for building purposes, and in this way many valuable relics have been lost.

It is quite evident, however, from the testimony of Dr. Watson, and the discoveries in the vicinity, that the station was a post of great importance, and may be looked upon as proof of an extensive settlement of this district during the Roman period. The large size of the stones used in its construction, the width and extent of the castle walls, and the general solidity of the fortress, amply demonstrate the permanent character of the military occupation, while the quantities of Roman coins found in almost all the surrounding hamlets and villages clearly evidence the wide-spreading nature of the colonization which the presence of the imperial legion would naturally promote.

The Romans held Britain as a province for nearly five hundred years, until A.D. 448. But the empire at length tottered to its fall, and the imperial troops were withdrawn from the island. The 20th legion, which, from the brilliant nature of its services had secured the title of "Victorious," and contained some of the finest troops of the Roman army, was one

of the first to leave. For upwards of 300 years the men of this illustrious legion had had their homes in Cheshire, and it is recorded that they left these parts with deep regret, and with a hopeful longing that the near future would bring them back once more to our own hills and dales.

CHAPTER III.

THE DAYS OF THE SAXON AND THE DANE.

"A conquering rabble ravaged o'er these lands,
Urged by Valhalla's maidens to the strife."

Leigh.

THE departure of the Romans indirectly led to the occupation of Britain by the Saxon races. It is a matter of history that the Saxons established many separate kingdoms at different periods of their wars with the Britons; and that the most important of these were the seven subsequently known as "The Saxon Heptarchy." Also that the Heptarchy consisted of the kingdoms of Kent, Sussex, Wessex, Essex, Northumbria, East Anglia, and Mercia. It is perhaps not so generally known that the locality of Hyde lay partly in the kingdom of Mercia and partly in Northumbria; that the latter kingdom contained several of the Northern counties, including Lancashire and Yorkshire; that Mercia took in Cheshire and the neighbouring shires, and that the dividing lines of the two kingdoms were formed by the two rivers—the Mersey and the Tame. This, however, was so, and these facts and the further facts, that the adjoining kingdoms were frequently at war with each other, and that the district was plentifully supplied with Roman fortifications, would render this locality the scene of great activity and strife in the early Saxon days, and in the tumultuous times that followed close upon them. Manchester, which in a quaint print, is described as a frontier town between Mercia and Northumbria, was, we know, in the course of the constant wars, possessed first by the forces of the one kingdom and then by those of the other, as the frequent variation came in the uncertain fortunes of the fight. Equally so it must have been with Stockport. Its commanding position so readily noted and taken advantage of by

the Romans would render its possession a matter of the greatest importance to both Briton and Saxon while the country's fate was still undecided ; and to each of the contending parties, when the battle of the kingdoms began. Hence, it is no matter for wonder that traditions should have been handed down to us—traditions, many of which, from the very nature of things would seem to be fairly accurate — which tell us of the British occupation of Melandra and the Longdendale country, of Stockport, of Manchester and the other Roman stations near, of great and long-forgotten kings, and fierce and bloody battles fought upon the hills and in the vales, and by the streams of this district.

One legend sings of the ideal hero of romance, whom Tennyson pictures in the "Idylls of the King":—

> "And Arthur and his knighthood, for a space,
> Were all one will ; and through that strength the king
> Drew all the petty princedoms under him ;
> Fought, and in twelve great battles overcame
> The heathen hordes, and made a realm and reigned."

So sang the Laureate, "in twelve great battles." And local legend tells us, speaking of those times, that five great battles of the Christian king were fought and won within the counties of the Mersey and the Dee ; that the heathen hordes were scattered by the founder of the "Table Round" and wielder of the "Brand Excalibur," amid the land whose mountains are the landmark of our home. These traditions further speak of the scenes of many a famous Arthurian battle-rush, as being somewhere in the valleys or on the hills of Longdendale.

Coming down to later days—days less clothed in mystery—whose history is more certain, we know that all the country immediately around, and our own townships, were often awakened with the rude and bitter shocks of war. The ancient town of Manchester, which so far back as the year 446 A.D., had been constituted a parish, made a valiant resistance to the forces of the Danes who had landed in these parts, somewhere about the year A.D. 869. The year following it was captured by the Danes, who then possessed themselves of all Northumbria, and some time later ravaged Manchester and all the district around. About that time the campaigns of Alfred the Great were fought along the banks and on the lands adjoining the waters of the Mersey and the Dee ; and later still these same two rivers were

the scenes of constantly recurring fights and bloody battles between the Saxon and the Dane. In A.D. 937, Anlaf, a Danish chief, landed in Mercia, accompanied by Constantine, King of the Scots, and by the King of Cumbria. He was met by Athelstane, the reigning monarch, who, with his brother, Edmund Atheling, fought and routed Anlaf's army at Brunburg, on the banks of the Mersey. This same stream, it is thought, in the course of those fierce conflicts, witnessed another great encounter, again disastrous to the Danes, fought on the sloping land between the ford and the Castle Hill at Stockport.

Countless other facts and legends might be mentioned concerning other portions of the district, and their connection with the Saxon-Danish days. Indeed, nearly every spot around, every hamlet, every town, every mile of country, bears some evidence of those times, some record to show, beyond all doubt, that they formed, as it were, the arena of war and strife, where deeds and acts were done that in their day and generation had some effect upon the destiny of our race. Old writers claim that the very names of things and places lying near—names familiar to our ears, though little understood—are drawn from those dead times, and are at once a monument and a tribute to some great event of history. According to those claims—and the writer gives them only as tradition, though they are printed in a History of Gorton, published some years ago—Gorton is of this denominating order, and so is Denton; and so, if the old tale be true, is Hyde itself, and many other places near. The traditions tell us that the district of Gorton, which was "disencumbered of its ancient oaks" by the Saxons about the year 610 A.D., and colonized a few years later, was the scene of frequent broils and battles about that time, when Edward the Elder invaded South Lancashire with his army of Mercians, and wrested the town of Manchester and its neighbourhood from the possession of the Danes. A great battle, it is said, was fought at Gorton—the last of the conflicts between the Saxon and Danish forces in the district—a battle so fierce, so horrible in the number of its dead, and so bloody in its character, that the spot where it took place was called the "town of blood"—"Gore Town," from which the modern name of Gorton is derived. The ditch which forms the boundary line between Gorton, Denton, and Reddish, and known as Nicker Ditch, was, according to the same tradition, made in

one night by the Saxons, in order to entrench themselves against the Danish foe. The whole length of the ditch extended from Ashton Moss to Ouse Moss, and the rapidity of its erection is accounted for by the fact that the great number of men engaged in the task were expected each to cast up a portion the length of himself before the dawn of day. The battle that followed the erection of this earth-work dyed the waters of a stream running near with the deep red of human blood, and to this day the little stream bears the name of Gore Brook; whilst one portion of the ditch, which became choked with the clotted blood of men, was called Red Ditch, the ancient name for the Reddish of modern times. Similarly, the eminence known as Winning Hill, the spot where the fate of the battle was decided, was in perpetual commemoration of this fact, designated by the triumphant appellation by which it is now known.

And so with other places more or less immediately connected with the spot. Dane Wood was so called from the fact that prior to the fight the Danes occupied the woodland then existing. Dane Head, in Audenshaw, because a leading person of that nation was beheaded on the spot; and Daneshut, in Denton, because another of their chiefs was shot there. Denton is really Dane Town, and the old story has it that Hyde was dubbed with its present designation because the beaten and flying army took refuge in the woodland of the district from the vengeful onslaughts of their fierce victorious foe.

Possibly objection may be taken to this reading of the origin of the names of the above places, and in a later chapter, other theories of greater probability are given. A more acceptable version of the origin of the name of Hyde is that it is derived from the Saxon term "Hide," used to designate a quantity of land. A hide of land is usually set at between one hundred and one hundred and eighty acres, an amount supposed to be sufficient to maintain one free family.

Other adjoining towns and villages, which are also supposed to owe their present names to circumstances connected with the Saxon-Danish period, are given here. One theory on the derivation of the name of Stockport states that it is taken from *Stock*, a castle or stockaded place; and *Port*, a wood,—meaning the castle or stronghold in the wood. Another

traces the name in the old fashioned spelling of Stopford, referring to the old ford across the Mersey. Mottram is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *Mot* or *Moter*, a meeting or convention; and *Ham*, a village: literally the "meeting village," or the "village of the convention," a fact which would give the light of accuracy to the traditions that the old-time village was once the place of meeting for the transaction of the public business of Stockport and the Vale of Longden. Dukinfield was originally named by the Saxons "Dokenveldt"—the field of the Raven, it is said because the Danes were defeated there, and their standard, emblazoned with a Raven, the national emblem of Denmark, fell into the hands of their conquerors. To look back once more to the Longdendale district, that tract of land between Hollingworth and Mottram, known as Wedenshaw, derives its name from the old "Wodens Hawe," or "the valley of Woden" of the Saxons, a place sacred to the Saxon deity "Woden" before the evangelisation of Saxon England.

Of the townships whose connection or relationship to the Saxon times is not evidenced by local etymology, the Doomsday survey, taken by the Normans, gives us some account. Bredbury is described as belonging to Richard de Vernon, and as being held under him by Uluric, a Saxon, who had owned it as a free man in the time of Edward the Confessor. In the reign of the same monarch Stockport Etchells, a portion of the parish of Stockport, was held by a Saxon named Ulviet, and is described as worth ten shillings. The township of Norbury was held by a Saxon chief named Brun. Offerton was held by the above-mentioned Uluric, and Chadkirk was held by Gamel, one of the very few chiefs of the Saxon race who were allowed to remain in occupation of their lands. Glossop in the days of the Confessor belonged to one Levine, whilst Charlesworth at the same time belonged to one Sven, and owed its name to the fact that it was the home or the village of numbers of Ceorls, its original appellation being Ceorls-Court.

These historic references and facts tell us, apart from tradition and local legend, that the district in the Saxon days was certainly not unimportant or devoid of population. On the contrary, it is generally believed to have been fairly well peopled, and richly stocked with cattle, sheep, and swine, belonging to the Ceorls. Like the rest of England, it must have

participated in and enjoyed the benefits and advantages of increasing civilisation, and the growing security which the efforts of the Saxon kings, and notably the statesmanlike policy of Alfred the Great, had made possible.

Indeed, there can be no doubt that these portions of Cheshire and the borders of the adjacent shires participated in this advance of civilizing secular forces and of the greater force of Christianity. Places for public worship must have existed in the vicinity, though of most of those early temples we have little authentic trace. We know that a church was founded and built at Manchester so far back as 627 A.D., and it is generally supposed that a building for the worship of Almighty God existed in the Chadkirk valley, and others in other woodland places near, long before the Normans crossed the seas. The Danes, on gaining complete possession of the kingdom, divided England into four great Earldoms, namely, Wessex, East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria, over each of which an Earl, appointed for the purpose, had supreme civil and military authority. Usually these nobles left the civil administration in the hands of the minor Earls of the various localities. The Earldom of Mercia was governed at different times by men whose names are great and whose deeds are interwoven in the old historic tales. In the days of Alfred, Etheldred, who received the title of Earl of Chester, was appointed civil governor, and, after him, six of his descendants, amongst whom were Wolfric and Alfric, occupied the position. The Danish Canute appointed Earl Edric to the supreme authority in the Earldom, with Leofric as the head of the civil government. This last nobleman was, in turn, succeeded in the office by several of his descendants, two of whom, Algar and Morcar, fell at the time of the Norman invasion.

CHAPTER IV.

NORMAN AND PLANTAGENET.

FTER the conquest of 1066 the written records of the district are more plentiful, and the student of its history is not obliged to depend so much for information on the ruined memorials spared by time. Many families who permanently settled in the district at the time of the Norman occupation (some of whose descendants still remain), were so closely and intimately connected with the history of the district that the family records which have survived give us considerable acquaintance with that history and the times when it was made.

It must not, however, be supposed that the more prosaic light of accurate knowledge robs the times subsequent to the coming of the Norman people of all romance, or makes the reading of their history less fascinating.

The commencement of the Norman occupation was marked by a great rebellion of the Northumbrian people, whom William the Conqueror thereupon decided to exterminate. This determination was speedily and completely carried into effect, so much so, that William of Malmsbury, writing some years after the occasion, tells us:—"From York to Durham not an inhabited village remained; fire and desolation made a vast wilderness there." The inhabitants of Cheshire hated the conquering race with all the bitterness of mortal anger, and, on the earliest opportunity, made superhuman efforts to throw off the yoke of their oppressors. The opportunity soon came; for the Flemish knight, Gherbod, whose loyalty to the Norman cause had been rewarded by the gift of the whole of the county and the title of Earl of

Chester, was obliged to leave for Flanders, to quell an outbreak of his tenantry there. His efforts, however, proved disastrous, and after suffering many reverses he was cast into prison, and his possessions in England were consequently lost. On learning this the Cheshire men secured the assistance of the Welsh and rose against the Normans, determined to drive them to the seas. But William, who was encamped at York, at once left that place with an army many thousands strong, and, crossing by the hills of Derby, swept Cheshire with his force, capturing the city of Chester. The whole of the county was given up to the sword, and the farm lands and forests laid waste. Those who refused to take refuge in flight were killed, like the men of Northumbria; their estates were plundered and confiscated and given to the Norman knights; and the famous Hugh Lupus, or "Hugh the Wolf," was appointed Earl of Chester, and invested by the king with unlimited and unheard-of power for keeping the county and the people henceforth in a subjugated state.

The effects of this reign were terrible in the extreme, and we need go no farther than the Doomsday survey of the Normans themselves, taken in 1081, for ample and pathetic evidence. The hundred of Macclesfield, which included Stockport, Hyde, and the surrounding places, and formerly belonged to the Saxon Earl Edwin, son of Algar, Earl of Mercia (Chester), became almost entirely depopulated and rendered of no value. Almost all the places about, whose names are mentioned in the Doomsday book, are chronicled as lying "waste." Alderley, Adlington, Bramhall, Dunham, Macclesfield, Mottram, Norbury, Werneth, in fact all, with the exception of Bredbury, Chadkirk, and Offerton, are described as waste tracts of country, with no mention of horse or oxen, sheep or swine, with which the district before had been plentifully supplied.

Lancashire fared little better, though the Saxon Thanes on that side of the Mersey were allowed to retain their possessions, subject, to paying tribute to their Norman lords. In Cheshire, except in very few scattered cases, no such favour was granted. But the Conqueror did not stop with the cessation of his ravages and the termination of his march of fire and sword in his efforts towards the curtailment of the rights and liberties of the people. Among many stringent measures adopted for the purpose

one was the appointment of local Justices with almost arbitrary power, who tried and summarily punished persons deemed guilty of any act which, in their opinion, had any tendency to lead to outbreaks or disturbance. Even more stringent still, and more disliked, was the ringing of the dreaded "Curfew Bell," the signal for the compulsory extinction of all fires between sunset and sunrise. The old custom of ringing the Curfew bell is still continued in many places in Lancashire and Cheshire.

The Earl of Chester amply fulfilled the wishes and desires of the Norman king, and all the plans of William for ascertaining the extent, and controlling the resources of the kingdom, were closely carried out within his Cestrian realm. Lupus set up what amounted to a small monarchy in the county. He appointed a number of Barons, to whom he gave extensive tracts of land, and from whom he received military service and attendance on his person. These barons constituted his parliament, and in their hands were placed the powers of life and death, and absolute control of the district assigned to them. One of these was Nicholas, first baron of Stockport, and the first of a long line of nobles, who held sway to an unlimited extent over that town and the country around. In addition to this arrangement, and many other minor but stringent measures, for the maintenance of the Norman supremacy, that general survey of the entire county, for the purposes of judging its resources, its capacity for taxation, and the amount of military service that could be procured—the Doomsday survey—was ordered, and speedily, and with accuracy, carried into effect. That work, which is a historical document of supreme importance and great interest, and is to be found even at this day among the records of the exchequer, deals fully and clearly with the county of Chester, and with the towns and places lying immediately about our home. Almost every district is mentioned by name, a brief but true account being given of its condition, its value, and the lord or chief by whom the place was held.

Bredbury is thus mentioned in this ancient survey and national return.

"The same Richard Vernon holds Bredbury and Uluric of him, who held it as a freeman. There is one hide rateable to the gelt. The land is three carucates, one radman, and six villeins

and two bordars, these have one carucate. There is a wood one league long and half a league broad, and there are three hays and a hawk's aery. In King Edward's time it was worth ten shillings, and it is worth the same now."

Of Chadkirk it goes on to say:

"Gamel holds of the Earl, Chadkirk. His father held it as a freeman. There are two hides rateable to the gelt. The land is six carucates; one is in the demesne, and has two neat herds, and four villeins, and three bordars, with two carucates. There is a wood a league long and half a league broad, a hay and a hawk's aery, and one acre of meadow. It was and is worth ten shillings. The whole manor is two leagues long and one broad."

Other entries tell us that "the Earl himself holds Macclesfield. Earl Edwin held it. . . . . The land is ten carucates. . . . . There is a mill to supply the hall. There is a wood six leagues long and four broad, and there are seven hays and a meadow for oxen. The third penny of the hundred belongs to this manor. In King Edward's time it was worth eight pounds; now thirty shillings. It was waste."

Also that "the same Gamel holds Mottram St. Andrew. His father held it. . . . . The land is four carucates. It is waste. There is a wood three leagues long and two broad. . ." It is perhaps necessary to explain here, in order that the foregoing extracts may be the better understood and appreciated, that a league, as mentioned in the Doomsday book, would be equal to a distance of rather more than a mile and a half of our present English measurement. A carucate meant as much land as one team of oxen could plough through in a year; a radman was one accustomed to the road, or to look after the wants and requirements of a pair of horses; whilst a bordar was one who had an allowance of a cottage and a strip of land made to him, on condition that he supplied a given quantity of poultry, eggs, and agricultural produce for his master's table; and a villein was a slave or serving man of the lowest order and class. The term "rateable to the gelt" meant that the land was rateable to the extent of the gelt, that is, a tax of about 10 per cent. which was first instituted by Etheldred the Unready, for the purpose of raising money to buy off the incursions of the Danes.

It will be clearly understood that the above extracts do not constitute all the references and information contained in the Doomsday survey relative to this district. Many other places are mentioned, some of them by the names which, either in their entirety or in a slightly altered form, they still retain. For instance, the Valley of Longdendale, which, by the way, means literally, "the Long Valley Dale," was termed by the Normans "Tingetwistle," or, as it is in the Doomsday book, "Tingetvise," a name which slightly altered still belongs to one of the townships of Mottram, namely, Tintwistle, which in ancient times was a borough town, and had its manorial hall and court leet, at which the lord of Mottram received suit and service of his tenants. Glossop is mentioned as being property of the crown, and Charlesworth is included under the name of Chevensworde. Offerton is called Alreton, and Romiley is described as Rumelie, whilst the township of Werneth is put down as "a virgate held by the Earl, the whole of it being waste," under the name of Warnet.

Of Hyde itself there is no mention made, though this fact must not be taken as conclusive proof that Hyde was considered of no importance or account. Many other places of great importance were for some reason and purpose omitted from the survey returns. Stockport is not mentioned, nor Dukinfield, nor even such places as Winchester and London, which we know, beyond all doubt, were famous as great centres of offence and defence, and head-quarters of the English commercial world.

Soon after 1081 Hyde came in the possession of a family of the name of Baggilegh, who bore the title of Lord of Bagguley and of Hyde. Later, in the reign of King John, half of the township belonged to a family named "De Hyde;" whilst a little later still, the remainder, together with the manorial rights, were transferred by the Baggileghs to this same family in whose hands it has remained to this day.

Dukinfield is known to have been transferred in the 12th century by Hamo de Masci, the second baron of Dunham, to Matthew de Bromale, as "a part of the land which formerly his father had held," and subsequently it fell to a branch of the Bromales bearing the local name, "De Dokenfield."

But long before the Norman kings and their Plantagenet

successors had passed from power in England, most of the towns and districts mentioned in the Doomsday survey had been transferred to other owners. Mottram, or Tingetwistle, which at the Doomsday time belonged to the crown, subsequently figured in the wide domains of Lupus, Earl of Chester. In the days of his successor, Ranulph, when Stephen was on the throne, it was granted to Sir Thomas de Burgo, and later, when the Earldom of Chester was annexed to the crown, it again became the property of the king. Whilst the second Edward ruled, the lordship of Longdendale was given to Thomas, Earl of Lancaster; it was confiscated, however, on his being found guilty of high treason, and afterwards granted to Sir Thomas Holland. By marriage, it passed to the family of the Lovels, who held it from the king by knight service. Under them, Robert de Stavelegh held the will of Staley; John de Hollyngworth, that of Hollingworth; Richard de Massey, the wills of Matley and Godley; and the De Newtons that of Newton. Mottram remained with the Lovels until the attainder of Viscount Frances, Lord Lovell, in the reign of Henry VII., when it was again confiscated and granted to Sir William Stanley, only to be confiscated yet again when, shortly afterwards, Stanley was proved guilty of high treason. Afterwards it fell into the hands of the ancestors of the Tollemache family, who still possess the manorial rights.

The adjoining township of Glossop, which in the Doomsday survey was reckoned as part of Longdendale, was granted by the conqueror to his natural son, William Peveril—Peveril of the Peak—whose descendant was disinherited by Henry II. for procuring the death of the Earl of Chester by poison, when it reverted to the crown. Henry, however, being on a military expedition in North Wales, became acquainted with the Monks of Basingwarke, and, in return for their friendship and attention, he bestowed the township upon Basingwarke Abbey. The charter conveying the transfer was witnessed amongst others by the great martyred A'Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury; but this fact did not prevent Bluff King Hal from seizing it along with other Abbey lands in 1536, and conferring it upon the Earl of Shrewsbury, from whom it passed by an agreement of exchange to the family of its present possessors, the Howards, Dukes of Norfolk.

Similarly with the township of Bredbury. It soon passed

from the hands of Richard de Vernon, who held it in the Doomsday times, to the Mascis, of Dunham, under whom it was held by Waltheof, one of the earlier lords of Stockport. By inheritance it descended to the Stokeports, but in 1332 a portion of the lands and part of Romiley were settled on Adam de Bredbury, whose daughter, marrying one of the Arderns, conveyed the possession of a considerable portion of the township to that family, whose ruined halls are still prominent and artistic ornaments of the landscapes of to-day. The Ardern family retained possession of their Bredbury estates until the year 1825, when they disposed of the whole, thus severing a connection with the district of more than 500 years' duration.

And so with all, or nearly all, of the adjacent townships and manors of the Norman times. By changes brought about by war, treachery, or the more peaceful forces of marriage or exchange, these properties, so valuable to-day, may be traced from their original holders, under the compilation of the historic survey, down to those whose good fortune it is to possess and enjoy their rights in present days.

CHAPTER V.

NORMAN AND PLANTAGENET— (*Continued*).

THROUGH all the time in which these changes in the ownership and destinies of the various spots and townships were taking place, our own locality figured more or less in the main events of national history.

In the sinking of the "White Ship"—which bore to death the son and heir of the first Henry—the son of Lupus, Earl of Chester, lost his life. When Stephen wrested the crown from the daughter of Henry, the Earl of Chester, (Ranulph the Second,) fought against him with the men of Cheshire, and the tradition is still kept alive of the great battle fought against the King in the district of Longdendale. To-day the battle site is pointed to and spoken of as the old "War Hill," and there the sturdy race of peasants—the husbandmen of Longdendale and the North East Horn of Cheshire, "leaving their life of cattle breeding, and the raising up of crops of corn and hay, rushed to do and die for the sake of freedom and their county's earl."

With the rise to power of the Plantagenets, war again visited this region. The King's sons, Henry, Geoffrey, and Richard Cœur de Lion rose against their sire, and Prince Geoffrey held the castle and town of Stockport. Later, when Richard wore the crown, and the lion-hearted monarch embarked for the battles of the great Crusade, the men of Cheshire followed in his train. The Earl of Chester, Ranulph the Third, won great fame, and others of the county gentry won place in song and story by the deeds done in these struggles for the cross. The Longdendale Valley has at least one crusading legend. The Stayley effigy

in the venerable pile of Mottram church is said to be a monument to the war-like fame of one of Richard's knights.

The Earl of Chester was one of the barons who wrung from the weak-kneed John that famous charter of English liberty known as "Magna Charta." But the old line of Earls was dying out, and the third Henry vested the Earldom in the crown, with the result that the heirs to the throne have ever since borne the titles of Prince of Wales and Earl of Chester. As a consequence, the succeeding rulers of the county were the Plantagenet Princes, famed in song and story, and their cause the men of Cheshire upheld with might and main. The third Edward and his son, the famous Black Prince, led them to the wars with France, where they won that immortal victory of Crecy, on August 26th, 1346. This battle was won by the matchless skill and bravery of the bowmen, among whom first and foremost were the men of Cheshire, in whose ranks fought the sturdy husbandmen of Hyde and Longdendale. They fought under the banners of Lovel at Crecy and Poictiers; they witnessed the surrender of John, the King of France, to the Earl of Manchester at the latter battle; and in all probability were witnesses of the knighthood of two of the Lords of Stockport, and one of the Hydes, of Hyde. The latter, who followed the Black Prince, had 71 archers in his train.

Brief though the local records be, they are at least sufficient to stamp those times as famous in the history of this little local world. They supply evidence enough to show that the locality continued to advance in material wealth, in industrial knowledge, and in the spread of christianity.

A trace of woollen weaving is found in the Longdendale Valley so far back as the reign of John; and Charlesworth was a place of some importance. It had a market on Wednesdays and a fair on St. Mary Magdalene's day granted to it by Richard I. Stockport commenced its corporate career by a charter granted so long ago as the year 1220, during the reign of Henry III.

As to christianity and matters ecclesiastical, many churches and chapels were erected, most of which remain to-day. The old church of Mellor was built about the close of the 12th century. Chapel-en-le-Frith, takes its name from the fact that the foresters

and keepers of the deer in the King's forest of High Peak, in 1255, erected a chapel on the King's soil, which they named the Chapel in the Forest (frith). Hayfield, in the reign of the second Richard, had a meeting place for public worship, and a small chapel was erected at Charlesworth in the days of Cœur de Lion.

Of this latter erection there is an interesting old story told which is worth preserving. It is said that in the olden time, on the old Monks' Road—so called because the abbots of Basingwarke used it as their road to and from the town of Glossop, and on which stood, and stands to-day, the old abbot's chair, or stone, where the abbot long time gone held his court in open air—a solitary traveller, weary and footsore, became

THE ABBOT'S CHAIR.

enveloped by the dangerous moorland mist. Bewildered by the fog, he strayed into the wildest parts of the morass, wandering further in its depths in his struggles to escape. At last, overcome by fatigue and dread, and slowly perishing in the mist which "froze him to the heart," he fell on his knees and prayed to God vowing he would build a chapel upon those moors if ever he reached his home in safety. When lo! immediately the dull fog lifted, the moon came out, the stars shone, and a shepherd came along to lead him safely off the hills. The old tale has it that the ancient chapel of Charlesworth was built as a thank-offering for that deliverance and in fulfilment of that vow.

SOCKET OF OLD CROSS ON THE MONKS ROAD.

At Glossop the Monks of Basingwarke had control of public worship. At Mottram, the old parish church was erected about the same time as its companion sentinel that watches from the far-off hill of Mellor. The mortar or cement used in building it was mixed, according to tradition, with good strong nut-brown ale, brewed for that purpose at a shed close by. Chadkirk possessed a chapel in extremely early times, and the old church at Stockport was fixed "immoveable upon its hill" in the early years of the 14th century, though long before that time buildings for the public worship of God had existed on or near the same site.

It will be seen that the neighbourhood of Hyde enjoyed, with other parts of Cheshire and the North, the benefits and advantages conferred upon the county during the Plantagenet period—one of the most glorious periods in the history of England. The stimulus given to commerce, directly or indirectly by various causes, was felt and appreciated; and the consequent betterment of the condition of the lower orders, and the lessening of the wide breach between the two—high and low—were rapidly pushed on. The results of the tyranny of John were the gradual uniting, for mutual protection and advantage, of the two antagonistic branches of our race, the Saxon and Norman, and the wresting of the great "Magna Charta" from the hands of the King. Moreover the commercial advances and the new relations caused thereby, proved a great check to feudal usages, and were a means of conferring greater freedom and rights of manhood upon the toiling masses of the country. These advantages—enormous advantages then—were felt in Cheshire, and gave a stimulus to prosperity in the immediate neighbourhood of Hyde.

But, this notwithstanding, it is worthy of note, that the

character of the country and many of the quaint old customs remained unchanged—indeed, many of the latter still linger in the land. Wild and beautiful scenery spread on every side; bleak and hungry moorland stretches on the hills; and, in some parts, miles and miles of sombre forest. The vales of Longden, Tame, and Chadkirk were once rich with woodland glory, broken here and there by the scattered halls of the wealthier classes, their beauty unimpaired by the zig-zag winding pack-horse tracks that led away on every hand over miles of valley, plain and hill. The streams were unpolluted—they *were streams* then, not foul-smelling hideous sewers—their waters were stocked with trout and bore upon their foaming wavelets the fallen timbers washed from off the banks. Old documents tell us that the Lords of Stockport had these fallen timbers for their perquisites. It would seem that the Lords of Stockport were fortunate men in those wild fascinating days, for surveys, taken at the time, tell of a mighty forest stretching over the greater portion of the country of Longdendale—a forest "whose trees were so thick in the olden time that the squirrels could leap from tree to tree, from Mottram to Woodhead."

In spite of the growth of commerce, the people were not all slaves to indoor industry; they did not all surrender the outdoor life of health their fathers had enjoyed. They were powerful men, who loved the freedom of a country life; they passed their time upon the land, cultivating the fruitful soil, or rearing great herds of cattle, and, in their leisure moments, entering in the good old English sports, "all of the olden time." Some of the poorer of the people, particularly the inhabitants of Glossop district, would, in the dying days of summer, migrate as harvesters, to labour in the corn fields of the south of England. The rest found food and labour and rollicking life all joyous and free in the greenwood of their native place.

CHAPTER VI.

TO THE FALL OF THE STUART KINGS.

THE period between the downfall of the house of Plantagenet, and the greater downfall of the Stuart dynasty—one of the most striking periods of English history—was a busy and tumultuous time for the inhabitants of this and the neighbouring portions of the shire of Chester. They figured in most of the mighty movements which marked that famous 300 years of national life, and the part they played was neither mean nor fruitless, but one of vital bearing upon the great questions of that mediæval time.

When the Northumbrian Lords upheld the cause of the unfortunate Earl of March (the rightful heir to the throne), against the usurpation of the Lancastrian line, the bowmen of Cheshire followed the banner of the Percys in the battle of Shrewsbury on the memorable 21st of July, 1403. In this fight the King gained a decisive victory; the famous Harry Hotspur, heir of Northumberland, was slain, and the war-like Earl Douglas, and many of the Cheshire knights, were made prisoners of war. Douglas, being a Scotch baron, was released on payment of a ransom, but most of the captive noblemen of Cheshire were beheaded on the field of battle, more than one great Cheshire family of to-day thus losing an ancestor by the avenging blade of the King.

In the following reign the wars with France were renewed, and Henry V., of lasting memory, added fresh lustre to the English arms. The Cheshire archers were again to the fore, and

at the close of the wars, when it was agreed that Henry should marry the daughter of the French King—thirty gentlemen of the county were summoned to attend their monarch at Westminster, among them being Laurence de Warren, baron of Stockport, the feudal lord of this locality. He also accompanied the King to France, where he received the honour of knighthood, and is said to have been at the bedside of his sovereign when Henry died in 1422.

The wars of the Roses plunged this portion of Cheshire in renewed martial activity. The district was divided in its opinions on the claims of the contending parties, one part siding with the house of Lancaster, and its neighbour defending, with equal vigour, the rival house of York. Mottram and the Vale of Longden declared for the Yorkists, whilst other adjacent places battled on behalf of the "blood-red rose." In the conflicts constantly ensuing neighbour made war against neighbour, brother strove against brother, and frequently it happened that friend slew friend. The Cheshire men figured prominently in many of the pitched battles, and their influence was exceptionally great in the famous battle of Blore Heath. In this fight, which occurred on the 24th September, 1459, when the Earl of Salisbury won the day, it is computed that on the Lancastrian side alone over 2,400 of the flower of Cheshire of all ranks and classes perished. The loss of the Cheshire men on the other side was little less severe, and the chronicle of the time gives the numbers of the slain, and their location, in such a fashion, that it would appear there was scarcely a family in the county that did not lose one or more of its members in this sanguinary fight.

Towards the close of this prolonged War of the Roses the "North East Horn of Cheshire" was represented by some of the most famous of its sons in the revolution that destroyed King Edward V., and placed the crook-back Richard upon the throne. These local celebrities figure by name and character in Shakespeare's works, in romances founded on fifteenth century life, and their acts are inscribed in the no less immortal pages of national history.

The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Edmund Shaa, or Shaw, who played so conspicuous a part in promoting the accession of Richard III, was a native of the parish of Stockport,

whence he migrated at an early age. He became a member of the Goldsmith's Company, and, rising rapidly in wealth and civic position, was ultimately appointed jeweller to King Edward IV. (a position he held under four successive sovereigns), and in 1482 he received the dignity of Lord Mayor. Whilst holding this important office he was approached by the crafty Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who, in his desire to seize upon the crown, saw that the only way to accomplish his designs was to secure the sympathies and support of the city of London. When Edward IV. died, in 1483, it fell to the lot of the Lord Mayor of London to attend and take part in the funeral ceremonies, and to receive in great state the infant King Edward V. on his subsequent entry to the city. Accordingly, Richard, who was at the time Protector, made Lord Mayor Shaa a member of the Privy Council, and then easily induced him to enlist his sympathy and influence on the side of the plotters, and to secure the services of his brother, Dr. Shaa—also a native of Stockport—who was an Austin Friar and a noted preacher of his day. The initial step taken, the Shaas played conspicuous and important parts in the critical events which followed. Dr. Shaa preached at St. Paul's Cross against the legitimacy of Edward's children, and in advocacy of the claims of Richard. Lord Mayor Shaa headed a deputation to Gloucester with an offer of the crown, and after the proclamation he attended as cup-bearer of the King. The citizens of London, however, began to suspect that the sons of their late King (Edward IV) had been murdered, and showed signs of rebellion, upon which Richard sent for over 5,000 soldiers to form his body guard, and not daring to levy money for the purpose of rewarding them, he disposed of some of the crown property to Sir Edmund Shaa, who found means to supply the sum required. After the death of Richard, at Bosworth Field, Shaa lived more the life of a private citizen, though he still continued to hold office as a magistrate and as the Royal jeweller, and enjoyed the friendship and the confidence of Henry VII. until his death, which occurred in 1487.

It is pleasing to know that although Shaa figured so prominently in great historic events of his day, he did not altogether forget his humble origin and the northern county that gave him birth. He founded the old grammar school at Stockport, and left a considerable sum of money with which to endow it. He

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also built a chapel in the Longdendale Valley, somewhere near Woodhead, to which he thus refers in his will:—"I will have two honest priests founded perpetually, one of them to sing his mass and say his other divine service in a chapel I have made to our Lady in Longdendale, and he shall pray especially for my soul and the soul of my father and mother and all christian people. And I will that he have for his salary yearly evermore the sum of £4 6s. 8d."

These and other vastly more important benefactions were made to this neighbourhood—to Stockport, Ashton, Mottram, and the Longdendale country, either during his lifetime, or by a rather curious and interesting will, dated a few weeks prior to his decease.

The Shaas were not the only local men of note who appeared on the stage of England's history in those times so pregnant with great events. In the reign of Henry VIII. James IV., of Scotland, entering into an alliance with the French King, raised an army, and crossed the Tweed, on which the Northern counties rose in defence of their country, and totally defeated the Scottish army at Flodden Field, September 11th, 1513. The success of the English armies on this occasion was principally owing to the united forces of Lancashire and Cheshire—the knights and gentry of the shires and their retainers—who, under the command of Stanley, formed the left wing of the English force.

In 1544 a second war broke out with Scotland, and the Cheshire forces, under Lord Hertford, advanced as far as Edinburgh, on which occasion their gallantry was such that Hertford conferred the honour of knighthood upon eighteen gentlemen of the county, among them being Warren, of Stockport; Davenport, of Bramhall; and Legh, of Lyme. An old document, containing a list of local gentry, along with their men, appointed to be in readiness for active service for this war, includes such well-known and familiar names as the Warrens, Leghs, Davenports, Dukinfields, Hydes and Arderns, all names of families intimately connected with this district.

Again, when Philip of Spain threatened the country with his great Armada, the inhabitants of Cheshire rose right loyally to aid in defence of their nation's rights and freedom. Over

2,000 soldiers were raised by the county, and a number of the local gentry subscribed considerable sums of money towards the formation and equipment of that navy which, by God's grace, shattered for ever the proud and mighty fleet of Spain.

But greater still, and far more famous, were the local men who appeared upon the scene in the time of the Stuart Kings, the great rebellion and the two succeeding reigns. Gradually during all this progress of the nation the neighbourhood of Hyde had witnessed the building of many of those old halls whose ruins still remain like so many hoary tombstones of the past. Arden Hall had arisen, probably on the site of an earlier mansion. Goyt Hall was built about 1570. Bredbury Hall was probably as old. Dukinfield Hall had succeeded an even older residence. There was Marple Hall and Hyde Hall, and these old and famous manors were the seats of the families, and in some instances the birthplaces of men who were leading personages and stars of exceptional brilliancy in the period of the great civil war. The Hydes and Ardens, the Bredburys, the Dukinfields, and notably the Bradshaws, were famous names and figures in that stirring drama of thunder and blood that spread over England when the Stuart Kingdom fell.

In the July of 1642 this district was roused to excitement by the demand of Lord Strange, on behalf of the King, that the citizens of Manchester should surrender to him all their military stores and accoutrements of war. The demand was refused, and a collusion occurred which marked the commencement of the great rebellion or civil war. Manchester was immediately garrisoned for the Parliament, and among the names of the commanders serving for its defence were those of Col. Bradshaw, Col. Dukinfield, Mr. Arden, and one of the Hydes, of Denton. The Lord of the Manor of Hyde was also a prominent figure on the side of the Parliament in conjunction with these leaders, all of whom were followed by their tenantry and servants. Strange, who, owing to the death of his father, had become Earl of Derby, again advanced on Manchester, which he now endeavoured to reduce to submission with his cannon. He was, however, again unsuccessful, and, seeing no hope of taking the city by storm, he raised the siege and withdrew his force. Subsequently, many engagements took place on both sides the Lancashire and Cheshire borders, which were waged with

great warmth because public opinion was pretty evenly divided in all parts of the two counties.

Stockport was garrisoned for the Parliament, and for a time was the headquarters of Col. Dukinfield's troops, who sallied out in all directions, levying contributions from the surrounding loyalists. On the 21st of May, 1644, Col. Dukinfield was defeated, and the town seized by the famous Prince Rupert, of the Rhine, the nephew of King Charles, who had deemed the critical state of the Royalist forces a sufficient warrant for his presence in Cheshire. He took the town, its cannon, ammunition, and many prisoners, and, having left a small force to watch it, made his way to Bolton, where, joined by the Earl of Derby, he again defeated the forces of the Parliament. Shortly afterwards Stockport and the neighbourhood was again in the hands of the Parliamentary troops, in whose cause the greater portion of the district had risen, and Col. Dukinfield was once more appointed to command. The Royalist gentry and supporters near were now looked upon as deadly foes, and in most cases were plundered by the Parliamentarians without scruple or mercy. On all sides their houses were pillaged, their property was seized and disposed of for the benefit of Parliament, either by private contract or by public sale. The neighbourhood continued to be the scene of constant warlike activity on the part of large bodies of both forces until the battle of Naseby put an end to all Charles's hopes, and the whole country became subject and submitted to the control of Parliament. It is worthy of note, however, that some of the local magnates were afterwards arrested by order of the Government and confined to Chester Castle on suspicion of being antagonistic to the iron-nerved Cromwell. To-day, outside the store of old time legend, which hands down much concerning this activity for our use and information, many portions of the district still retain evidences of the movements of, and occupation of places by, the troops of the two contending factions.

The Longdendale Valley, so rich in antiquities and historical monuments, has, or had recently, some evidence of connection with the Royalist and Parliamentary forces; whilst Stockport, Dukinfield, Marple, and other spots in the neighbourhood bore similar traces of those times of war. The manor house of Marple in particular is specially redundant in this respect. When King

Charles was arraigned on the 20th of January, 1648, a native of this locality, John Bradshaw, of Marple Hall, sat as President of the Court. He conducted the proceedings in a cool—and according to some authorities, impudent—fashion, figuring as an awful, stern, yet in some respects sublime, character, in that famous historic drama of death. Day by day he had frequent disputes with the doomed monarch, who repudiated the authority of the judges, and when the verdict had been pronounced Bradshaw delivered a long and bitter address in justification of the sentence—an address which the unfortunate Charles in vain endeavoured to interrupt; then, unmoved as ever, he discharged his last and most solemn task by affixing his signature to that famous historical document—the death warrant of the King. The following day the sentence was carried out; the axe fell, and Charles the First reigned no more.

Hyde then, and even more especially the district and the families around it, played a part certainly not insignificant in the general history of the country during the reigns of the royal Houses of Lancaster, York, Tudor, and Stuart. In the downfall of the latter dynasty, and in the time of the Commonwealth, as will be gathered from these facts of history, it was in the front rank of causes that brought the leading national events to pass.

As in previous reigns, it enjoyed its share of the development of the times; doubtless it grew somewhat in population, though wholly, or almost wholly, given over to agricultural pursuits, and its population became partakers of the many advantages that that period now attained. Improvements, certainly, were effected locally in many directions. Roads were made and improved; bridges thrown across the streams. Churches and chapels of ease were erected, and places for educational purposes were built. In addition to the foundation of the Grammar School at Stockport, already mentioned, the year 1612 saw the foundation of a similar institution at Mottram. A chapel was attached to the old hall at Dukinfield, probably the successor of an earlier one at that place, which had been licensed by the Bishop of Lichfield on October 10th, 1398. This building, although mentioned by some authorities as being a chapel of ease to the Stockport Parish, was handed over about the year 1644 to the use of the Independents or Congregationalists.

As far back as the year 1532 the old chapel was erected at Denton, the people of the district, prior to that date, having in all probability worshipped either at Gorton, or at the church at Stockport. The chapel at Chadkirk, of course, was standing, probably on the site of a very early religious foundation. It is mentioned in important documents bearing date 1534, and the chapel and surrounding lands, and the adjacent holy and enchanted well, are quaintly and fully described. It was one of the chantries suppressed by the order of King Henry VIII., after which it was closed and allowed to fall into decay, and for a time it was used as a stable. It was rebuilt about the year 1741, and, with subsequent restoration and beautifying, it remains a lovely ornament and antique relic of the district to-day.

Mention may here be made of the bridge just below the Chadkirk Chapel, which for many years formed the boundary of the old Macclesfield forest. Under various names it had existed in some form or other, but about the year 1500 it is said to have received, on account of the vast number of otters frequenting the stream, the name of Otterspool Bridge, by which name it is still known.

During the century preceding the Revolution of 1642, portions of the township of Hyde and of the surrounding neighbourhood occasionally changed hands, and several local families were founded. Marple, which in the earlier portion of the period was in the possession of that famous Lord of Haddon Hall, Sir George Vernon, King of the Peak, passed from the Vernon family by the marriage of the sister of the romantic Dorothy Vernon to the Stanleys, and from them a portion of it was purchased by the Bradshaws, whose descendants, the Bradshaw-Isherwoods, still possess it. Godley, which, from deeds dated as far back as the reign of King John, had been the property of the Godleys, passed into the hands of the Ashtons of Chadderton, from whom its lands were subsequently purchased by the ancestors of some of the present owners.

In Hyde itself this change of ownership was no less noteworthy. The Shepleys, whose descendants still hold the land, purchased the Lumn estate from Sir Uryan Legh, of

Adlington, in 1612, and the old house known as the Lumn was probably built shortly after that date. This Sir Uryan Legh, whose ancestor had come into possession of the properties by marriage with one of the Hydes, also sold about this time to the ancestors of the Howards the estates upon which the factories erected by that family now stand. The heads of such ancient local families lived on their own freeholds, and in the earliest days of the cotton industry they began spinning in the district with the water power—a process generally adopted at that time.

CHAPTER VII.

FROM THE COMMONWEALTH TO THE VICTORIAN ERA.

IT is unnecessary to follow closely the progress of the nation under the Commonwealth. It will suffice to know that after the formal submission of the county to the authority of Parliament, which occurred at the fall of Chester, 1646, several of the gentry from the surrounding manors, whose conduct had given grounds for suspicion, were arrested and confined in Chester Castle on a charge of "being disaffected to the Protector." The Baron of Stockport was one of these.

With the restoration of the monarchy some of the gentry who had figured prominently on the side of Parliament during the rebellion were called to account for their conduct. Col. Dukinfield of Dukinfield, Henry Bradshaw of Marple Hall, and others, were arrested and tried for the part they had taken in the trial and execution of the royalist Earl of Derby. Though the indictment was not persisted in, Dukinfield was imprisoned on a groundless charge of being concerned in an attempt "to seize the King and the Tower, to kill the Queen and her French attendants, and to restore Parliament." Bradshaw, after a lengthy and most ingenious defence, was detained in prison about a month and then liberated.

The reign of Charles the Second, noted for its many disasters, contained no greater event of this class than the Great Plague of 1665, and the terrible Fire of London in 1666. Both these occurrences had some connection with the district, for the locality did not escape the ravages of the former, and old records show

that on the occasion of the latter, a collection was made in the Parish of Stockport (in which Hyde then was) in aid of the sufferers.

But this and the immediately succeeding reigns are more interesting to the people of this district from the fact that the great minister of the second Charles was the Earl of Clarendon, a descendant of the ancient family of Hyde. Clarendon was one of the main agents in promoting and achieving the restoration, and subsequently, as the first minister of the crown, and the most influential man in the kingdom, he practically controlled the destinies of the empire. Besides his own great personality, and the impress of his own individual genius on the life and development of the nation, it is a noteworthy fact that Clarendon was the ancestor of two Queens of England. His daughter was the consort of the second James, becoming thus the mother of Mary and Anne, both of whom reigned in turn. Mary married William, Prince of Orange and, after the defeat and flight of James, reigned conjointly with her husband. After their demise Anne ascended the throne, governing this country during a period distinguished for the advance the nation made, and the victories attendant on the English armies in the wars of the Duke of Marlborough.

On the death of Anne the crown of England passed into the possession of the House of Hanover, and this arrangement gave rise to many attempts to restore the banished line of the Stuarts. The most formidable of these risings were the rebellions of 1715 and 1745, and in the latter of these the district figured to some extent. In the former the part it played must have been small, as the only record of note seems to be the arrest of one of the Leghs of Lyme "for dangerous and treasonable practices against the King and his Government." But even that is of interest.

The rebellion of '45 was the most notable of the two. When the young Pretender's army was at Manchester the district was scoured far and wide by recruiting parties, and bands for reconnoitring were sent onwards to clear the woods and examine the country through which the Scottish army would have to pass. Stockport became a centre of operations, and for a time was occupied by the rebel

troops. One ancient chronicle gives an interesting description of the march of the army from Manchester, and the fording of the river at Teviot Dale, Stockport, by Prince Charles. We are told that the water took him up to the middle, and that "he was dressed in a light plaid, belted about with a blue sash; he wore a gray wig with a blue bonnet with a white rose in it, and it was observed that he looked very dejected."

The chronicles of Longdendale also have it that in '48 "bonnie Prince Charlie" sent portions of his army through Mottram and Glossop. It is recorded that "they roughed it during their stay—killed cattle, and, for lack of utensils, boiled meat in hides skewered up at the corners, and the inhabitants were greatly alarmed for the safety of their valuables, their money, and cattle."

Happily, with the termination of this rebellion, war came to an end on British soil, and local life henceforth ran on industrial lines. The district figured in no insignificant manner in the development of the cotton and other industries of the North, and it had its share in the various risings of the people upon the great industrial questions which from time to time agitated the masses—and particularly the Northern portion—of the English people.

The wars in the reign of George the Third—wars unparalleled for their gigantic nature—so severely tested the resources of this country as to limit its trade and increase taxation, causing periods of great depression in the staple trades of these parts, and leading to many industrial disturbances.

As early as 1808, Manchester and Stockport were the scenes of great meetings of the workers from the neighbouring districts, and in each of the succeeding risings of the operatives the locality figures prominently.

Gradually, yet surely, with the course of the Victorian era, the land has seen a general development, the constitution of the country has materially altered, and the liberties of the people have enormously increased. Government is now conducted on a more democratic system, and the voice of the people is a powerful factor. Education has made stupendous strides, and slowly yet surely men are realising the duties of citizenship as well as its rights. Then, too, with the opening out of

railroads and other means of communication, great industries have flourished in our midst, and commercial prosperity has rapidly advanced. As a consequence, vast populations have sprung up, and thriving municipalities surround us, which, taking advantage of the forces of modern science, are tending to an improved sanitation, better health, greater facilities for self-culture, and a general betterment of the social life of the people.

In all this the district has had a part, and to-day, speaking generally, it can well hold its own with any other portion of the United Kingdom. Practically, it has in less than one century developed from an agricultural area into a great manufacturing and mining centre. The change, from the point of view of scenic effect, has been little less than marvellous, and the alterations in the general character and pursuits of the people have been upon an equal scale.

The older ones among us, whose memories hark back the greater part of a century, can well remember the old systems of amusement and many customs of the people, the very existence of which is now unknown to the bulk of the population. Some of those customs remain with us, in a modified form, such as the annual wakes and the rush-cart with the morris-dancers, but most of them have died away. Many of them, would seem strange to modern eyes; for instance, the procession of the Squire and his family to church, preceded by a tame stag, a custom which, if local tradition and old women's tales lie not, was observed regularly, Sunday after Sunday, in Hollingworth. We can well spare them. Bull-baiting, bear-baiting, and the like are better done away with, to exist only as a memory.

The moral effect of all these changes, and of the improved tone of feeling in the country which they indicate, is perhaps best set forth by Prince—himself a product of this neighbourhood—in one of his inimitable "Songs for the People."

O God! the future yet shall see
On this fair world of thine,
The myriads wise, and good, and free,
Fulfil Thy blest design.
The dawn of truth, long overcast,
Shall kindle into day at last,
Bright, boundless, and divine;
And man shall walk the fruitful sod
A being worthy of his God.

PART II.

THE TOWN OF HYDE.

CHAPTER I.

ITS GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

HE extract from the work of Dr. Aitken which is given in the Introduction, proves that little more than a century ago Hyde was not known, even as a village, and that the hamlet of Gee Cross—the forerunner of Hyde, and long spoken of as "the capital of the township"—had no existence as a centre of population prior to 1746.

A century and a half ago, the township was, like the district around it, an agricultural area, and the only buildings were Hyde Hall, the seat of the Lord of the Manor; The Lumn (which still stands); the scattered farms, and the folds and clustered homesteads of the labourers on the land.

Hyde eventually became one of those places where the cotton trade took root in its infancy, probably on account of the numerous brooks and streams which offered the aid of water power in days anterior to the introduction of steam. Illustrative of this it may be mentioned that a small rivulet running through Gee Cross had at one time as many as five cotton factories standing on its banks, all worked by water wheel. Further, although the population of the district was agricultural, it would appear that most of the families occupied their leisure with some handicraft or manufacture; either as websters, felt-makers, or cotton and wool spinners. Most of the houses then erected had either cellars for weaving or a third storey for spinning. The writer remembers visiting an old cottage in Gee Cross,

which contained an ancient hand-loom—a rare and interesting memorial of the early days of local manufacture.

The spread of the cotton industry caused an increase in the population and gradually the village of Gee Cross came into being. This was followed some time later by the foundation of the town of Hyde. What was known as "*Red Pump Street*," really a row of ten houses, situated in the lower part of Market Street, was built probably between 1780 and 1790; and from this row or village, as it was formerly called, sprang the town. The "Street" owed its name to the fact that it stood on part of the land appertaining to what was known as "Red Pump Estate" (a substantial homestead belonging to the Howards and their connections the Hegginbothams) which occupied the site of the Manchester and Liverpool District Bank at the corner of Market Place. On the side wall of this homestead there was painted a hand, decorated at the wrist with an old-fashioned lace ruffle, pointing toward the "Ten Houses," and underneath it in large letters the words "Red Pump Street," thus indicating the whereabouts of the little village.

The foundations once laid, the after history of the town is simply a story of rapid development. In the course of the succeeding years, fresh mills and works have arisen, causing the influx of large numbers of operatives, and thus necessitating the erection of additional dwelling-houses, shops, and other institutions. The hatting industry has taken root and flourished. The iron and engineering trades are prosperously carried on, and mining is extensively conducted.

The adjoining township of Newton has played an important part in the promotion of local industry. About 80 years ago, the cotton trade was carried on in Newton with great spirit, and for a long time the largest factories of the neighbourhood were situated in that township. Many of the wealthiest and best known families engaged in the cotton manufacture, such as the Bayleys, Leeses, Cheethams, Harrisons, the Leeches of Stalybridge and Dukinfield, and the Horsfields of Hyde—originally came from Newton, where the fathers or grandfathers of the present representatives, began cotton spinning on a very humble scale.

But much of the prosperity and perhaps the existence of the

town of Hyde is due to the enterprise of the Ashton family—to whom modern Hyde is deeply indebted for many of its educational advantages—the Sidebothams, Howards, Hibberts, and Thornelys. Members of these families were pioneers of the industries that form the wealth of Hyde, and in several instances the representatives of the present generation still carry on and further develope the huge businesses which their forefathers founded.

The people of an industrial centre, like Hyde now became, were closely concerned with the many risings of the work-people which distinguished the early years of the cotton trade in Lancashire and Cheshire.

A severe trade depression—the result of the taxation levied on account of the continuous wars in the reign of George III—caused great distress among the operative class in the first decade of the present century; and the manifestation of the popular feeling which then took place at both Manchester and Stockport, received ample support from the inhabitants of Hyde.

THE LUDDITES.

The agitations known as the Luddite Riots, in the years 1811-1812, also caused great excitement in this neighbourhood. The riots owed their name to the fact that the insurgents announced they were under the direction of a leader designated by the fictitious name of *Ned Ludd* or *General Ludd*. Hence they themselves *Ludds* or *Luddites*. The avowed purpose of the rioters was the destruction of machinery, the use of which had greatly superseded manual labour. To bind their adherents to the purpose of their order, they administered the following oath :—

"I——of my own voluntary will, do declare and swear that I never will reveal to any person or persons under the canopy of heaven, the names of any of the persons composing the secret committee, either by word, deed, sign, or by address, marks, or complexion, or any other thing that may lead to the discovery of the same, under penalty of being put out of the world by the first brother whom I may meet; and of having my name and character blotted out of existence. And I do further swear that I will use my utmost endeavours to punish with death

any traitor, or traitors, who may rise up against us, though he should fly to the verge of existence.—So help me God to keep this oath inviolable."

An attempt to counteract this oath was made and placards to the following effect were issued :—

"The villain who takes this oath deprives himself of that liberty which is the birth-right of all Britons, deprives himself of trial by jury, and binds himself the willing slave of the vilest and most blood-thirsty assassins and incendiaries. He not only puts himself out of the protection of the laws, but he deprives other men of the power of assisting him : at least while he keeps his oath a secret, and refuses to reveal the purposes and objects of this detestable conspiracy. Thus all the deluded wicked wretches who are bound by this oath, are, at this moment, exposed to the greatest dangers, and are liable to be assassinated and put to death in the most cruel manner by any of their companions.

Again this oath is an offence against man, as it defeats the purpose of human justice, and enables the assassin and murderer to escape with impunity . . . . . because the traitors who have taken this oath, weakly and wickedly suppose that it supersedes all moral and religious obligations, and think that such a compact which they have entered into, releases them from any duty which they owe to God, their King, and their country."

It is said that the oath was so prevalent in Lancashire and Cheshire that even boys of 16 were known to have taken it. The ceremony of administering this oath was known as "twisting in."

The neighbourhood of Hyde was an active recruiting ground for the insurgents, and so keenly was the power of the rioters felt that the military were requisitioned to keep the peace. The officer commanding the detachment stationed in this neighbourhood—Captain Raines (formerly an officer in the light dragoons)—published his memorial of the struggle in 1817, and his account of the movement of the troops is full of interest. The Scotch regiment, in which Captain Raines was serving, and whose Colonel

was the Duke of Montrose, was then stationed in Kent, and was ordered to repair northwards by forced marches in waggons. The account states—"Being on leave of absence in London, I only heard of the march of the regiment through the public journals. I instantly followed it, and joined at Leicester. . . . . Resuming our station in the waggons we proceeded with all expedition to Macclesfield, where a route awaited us for Ashton-under-Lyne. On our arrival there an order came by a dragoon to detach one company to Mottram; for this duty I was selected, and repaired thither accordingly.

Reports were frequently brought to me that the Luddites assembled every night within a short distance of our quarters for the purpose of drilling and holding their conferences, notwithstanding our piquets were constantly patroling, they never had the good fortune to fall in with any of them. I afterwards learned they had spies continually watching our movements, who conveyed intelligence to the main body of the road the soldiers took. I proposed to Mr. Lightfoot, the curate of the parish, who was well acquainted with the country, to accompany me and two soldiers for the purpose of ascertaining whether these people did actually assemble—he gladly accepted my proposal. We commenced our patrol about 12 o'clock at night, and after being out little more than an hour, we fell in with some of their look-out parties at the edge of a moor, about a mile and a half from Mottram. As we advanced we discovered them in great numbers, and though I had ordered my men to conceal their arms and turn their caps, it now appeared soldiers were discovered to be at hand from the general flight which ensued. We followed them, running as fast as we could, the men now showing their arms and pretending to call for the piquet. It was with the greatest difficulty I could keep the soldiers from firing; they were Highlanders, possessing all the ardour the natives of their country are remarkable for, zealous and hearty in the cause we were engaged in. I soon found it would be prudent to secure a retreat, whilst it was yet in our power, as from the numbers springing up in all directions, I saw we should shortly become the pursued instead of the pursuers; we therefore took refuge in a ditch, where we waited till the coast was clear."

Captain Raines' account contains frequent reference to most of the places in the district. The page succeeding the one from

which the above extract is derived relates "the circumstance of the Luddites discovering that one, William Cooper, of Newton, commonly known as Bill Strapper, was an informer; and of their meeting, and deliberate agreement that Cooper 'should be put out of the world,' according to the tenor of the oath by which they were bound." Anxious for the safety of this man, Captain Raines offered him protection, but after two nights' stay with the military, Cooper decided to go home. "He returned, however, in the greatest consternation, having found that his home had been visited during the night by the Luddites, who threatened to murder his wife and children if they did not tell where he was." Shortly afterwards news was spread of a murder in Newton, and the body of a man was discovered near Cooper's house. It transpired, however, that it was the body of one Samuel Crabtree, and from all appearances it seemed probable that he owed his death to the accidental discharge of his own pistol, which he had placed loaded in his pocket. Newton figures largely in Captain Raines' account, and several important arrests were made in the township. "These transactions," says the Captain, "took place on a Sunday. It was a very wet day, and most of the inhabitants of Newton were at home, but immediately the alarm was given, every man who knew himself to be guilty did not long continue there."

The following fragments from old documents will prove of interest. In the Military Order dated Roe Cross, 27th Aug., 1812, occurs this passage :—

"Captain M'Dougal arrived this morning. I have given him instructions. He will proceed to-morrow night to Gee Cross."

Hyde, 28th August, 1812.

Mr. Hyde Clarke's compliments to Captain Raines, that he has sworn in the oath of allegiance to 95 men, but there will be with him to-morrow he believes 50 or more. H. C. has had a great deal of his business to attend to yesterday and to-day, so put them off till to-morrow. James Smith, of Dukinfield,—weaver, was sworn in by James Haigh, as also John Spragg at the same time. John Spragg, weaver, in Dukinfield, *twisted in* three months ago, by James Haigh. James Smith works with John Spragg, and *twisted in* at the same time Spragg was, by James Haigh. I can see only the two above that James Haigh has *twisted in*. Spragg works for William Taylor, of Ashton. I believe this James Haigh is a great rogue. Excuse haste.

H. C. will be in Stockport on Monday.

The termination of the Luddite Riots was marked by the presentation of a piece of plate (valued at 100 guineas), bearing the following inscription :—

Presented November 4th, 1812, to Captain F. Raines, by the inhabitants of Mottram and its vicinity, as a testimony of their gratitude for the eminent services rendered them in his indefatigable and successful efforts to suppress the spirit of disaffection rapidly extending itself through that county.

Mottram, it should be stated, was looked on as a convenient centre or headquarters for the military appointed to keep the peace in the neighbourhood of Hyde.

The whole of this district seems to have been plunged in a state of turmoil common at that time to all the manufacturing centres of England. A glance at the public journals of the day shows that almost every local township is represented on the list of prisoners to be tried for acts of riot and disorder. The "Gentleman's Magazine," in its report of the trials at Chester, on May 25th, 1812, enumerates a long list of local offences, including riots at Bredbury, Staley, Stockport, Mottram, Tintwistle, and finally sums up with the following :—"William Walker, dignified with the name of "General Ludd," for riot and seizing flour from Ralph Booth, of Gee Cross. James Crossland, for destroying machinery and threatening the life of one Robert Thornily, cotton spinner. All above were found guilty." Among other local disturbances was an attack made (during transit) on a number of power looms manufactured by the Marlers, of Newton, for the East Lancashire cotton trade. The lorries containing them were seized and burned, and the looms broken or otherwise destroyed. Many of the Luddites concerned in these local risings were transported, while others fled the country and settled abroad, some of them, it is said, embarking in and carrying on successfully the trades they had been engaged in here.

MAY'S DOWNFALL.

In the summer of 1828 trade again became depressed, and the masters announced a determination to reduce the wages. This reduction was most resolutely opposed by the workers, and a great strike commenced, which rapidly extended through all the cotton district. During this strike a terrible accident occurred in

Hyde. A meeting to protest against the reduction was held in the Norfolk Arms Hotel, in the April of 1829. The meeting was attended by over 600 operatives, and in the course of the proceedings the floor suddenly gave way, with the result that 29 persons were killed. The jury at the coroner's inquest found a verdict of "accidental death;" but the bitter spirit engendered by the strike was not slow to prompt the more than insinuation that the calamity was not altogether the result of accident. The disaster is still remembered and spoken of as "May's Downfall," because a Mr. May was the landlord of the Norfolk Arms at the time. The event caused the greatest excitement in the district, and many publications after the fashion of the time dealt specially with it. One of them may be quoted as an example. It is headed with the print of a little child bearing a cross, surrounded by a sombre cloud. Under this are the following:—

VERSES ON THE

LATE AWFUL CATASTROPHE AT HYDE.

Come, all ye men of feeling wherever you may be,
Come listen and I'll tell to you a tale of misery.
I pray you give attention, men and masters all,
While I relate a dreadful tale that will your hearts apall.

The labouring hands of Stockport have turned out of late,
And scores of poor families are in a dreadful state;
And now our cotton masters have of late decreed,
To stop all hands that are in work from helping those in need.

A meeting there was called at the Norfolk Arms at Hyde.
For to discuss the matter and someway to decide.
Some hundreds were assembled, when dreadful for to tell,
The beams that held the floor gave way and down the people fell.

The scene that ensued would melt a heart of stone,
Such screams and horrid moaning, such sighs and bitter moans.
Full thirty bodies were left dead and many wounded sore.
Sure such a sad catastrophe never happened here before.

And whatever was the cause: it being not made out,
That there is some blame I have not the smallest doubt;
Impoverishing the country, seems to be the design,
Which is contrary to all laws, both human and divine.

Ye humane friends of charity, still lend a helping hand,
To assist your fellow workmen in their important stand;
And may that good reward you, that ever fruitfull love.
With blessings on your virtuous heads, be poured from above.

The room in which the illfated meeting was held was probably only expected to hold about 300 people, instead of which close upon 700 were crammed into it. None of them, except the chairman, were able to be seated. John Dawson, an operative, occupied the chair, and opened the meeting by impressing upon his hearers the necessity of discussing their grievances calmly; and of coming to some resolution that would show the masters they were determined no longer to be looked upon as slaves. Whilst a man named Tobias Smith was speaking, the floor gave way and over 300 persons were hurled into the gulf. The weight of the falling mass was such as to break through the flooring of the room beneath and to crash into the cellar, where many of the victims were suffocated, and others fearfully mangled. It is said there were found in the cellar, after all the bodies had been removed, 120 hats, and over 50 bonnets, shawls, and cloaks.

The persons killed in the catastrophe were as under:—

Levi Thomas, Werneth.
Thomas Howarth, Werneth.
John Broadhurst, Hyde.
Joseph Ward, ,,
Deborah Swindells, Hyde.
Richard Bome, ,,
John Hill, ,,
Elizabeth Howarth, ,,
William Bartley, ,,
Ellen Shelmerdine, ,,
Joseph Cartledge, ,,
Mary North, Newton.
Edward Morton, Newton.
Joseph Stafford, ,,
Mary Brown, Hyde.
Anne Penny, Hyde.
Joseph Higham, Hyde.
Ann Adams, Hyde.
George Newsham, Hyde.
Sarah Slater, Hyde.
Ann Stead, ,,
Maria Heys, ,,
Betty Bromiley, Godley.
Levi Rowbottom, ,,
Robert Broadbent, Godley.
James Williamson, ,,
John Hunt, Houghton.
Willis Cocks, ,,
Daniel Clough, ,,

The year 1830 saw another commercial depression seize upon the district, and again a turn-out took place; unhappily attended with painful results. In connection with this strike the murder of Mr. Thomas Ashton, of Pole Bank, occurred—a tragedy that produced a most painful sensation throughout the whole of England. This sad occurrence forms such a striking event in the Annals of Hyde, that it deserves more than passing mention; and is dealt with in a later chapter.

For several years succeeding the above events, the trade of the district was in a most unsatisfactory state, and the privation and suffering which the people were forced to undergo, produced great discontent. As a consequence, the Chartist movement of 1838 was greatly strengthened in these parts, for though there were branches of the organisation in all parts of the Kingdom; yet, those in Ashton, Hyde, and Stockport, were most formidable. Meetings were frequently held at which very strong language was used, resulting in many cases in the arrest and imprisonment of the speakers.

A few years later the Chartist agitation again prevailed, and all the mills in the neighbourhood were compelled to turn out. Hyde indeed figured so prominently in the Chartist riots, that, when at length the proceedings became so serious as to lead to the adoption of severe means for their suppression, it was one of the places to which the military were ordered, though happily no very serious consequences resulted.

In connection with this the following anecdote will probably be of interest to the reader. The story is related by Mr. G. J. Westbrook, Clerk to the County Magistrates :—

Some years ago, when that gentleman was touring in Wales, he chanced to visit a certain great show place of the Chatsworth order. The owner of the place—a fine old soldier—was on the premises, and finding the visitors came from Hyde he manifested much interest in the town. The cause of this became apparent when the soldier announced that his earliest military exploits consisted in his being one of the officers in command of the detachment of troops quartered in Hyde at the time of the disturbances referred to. He remembered the place quite well, and recollected the names of many individuals of local note. He

was one of the Crimean heroes who rode in the grand death-rush at Balaclava : he has since been gathered to his rest.

The distress in this district about the year 1842 was undoubtedly awful to contemplate. A report of the time says :— "The trade in the cotton mills at Oldham, Ashton, Dukinfield, Newton, Hyde, Rochdale, and Heywood gets worse every week, and wages lower. The overseers in all towns find it difficult to collect the rates to pay the poor. There is less building than there has been for 50 years, and carpenters and builders have scarce any employment. In the above districts there are thousands of men willing to work who cannot get anything to do. Hundreds of poor people may be seen daily in the country places gathering nettles and other vegetables, being all they have to subsist upon."

On the first Monday in July, 1842, a great mob stopped all the mills in Ashton, Stalybridge, and Hyde, and compelled the work-people to turn out and join them. On the previous day there had been a great meeting held at Mottram Moor, when William Moorhouse, afterwards the Hyde bellman, had taken the chair. Mr. Joseph Little, who was then chief constable, was present at the meeting taking notes. He was referred to by one of the speakers, a man named Leech, who shouted:—"There is one of the Government men, who is like the black coated gentleman who attends yon place—(Mottram Church). We would all be parsons and blue bottles if we were all paid by the Government. But let me tell you that the Church is an open hell filled by the cotton lords who are a set of thieves and rogues, and good honest people they will not allow to enter."

Generally, however, in spite of the agitation the mills in Hyde continued to work until on the 9th of August, a large mob, several thousands strong, hailing from Ashton and Stalybridge, marched through Newton and Hyde closing every mill they passed. Most of the mill-managers on hearing of the approach of the mob, stopped the engines and allowed the hands to join the crowd. Messrs. Horsfield, of Slack Mills, however, worked their engines until the turn-out came, when the operatives were summoned to follow the example of the rest. On the 11th of August a large body of people, said to number nearly 30,000, armed with heavy sticks and other weapons made a general march on Stockport, the object being to strike terror into the hearts of the capitalists, and

to give force to the spirit breathed in the following verses, which had for some time gone the round of the district—

There is a cry throughout the land,
A fearful cry and full of dread ;
Woe to oppression's heartless hand,
A starving people cry for bread.

That cry was heard when guilty France
On the dread brink of ruin stood ;
Yet sound the viol, speed the dance,
'Tis but the hungry cry for food.

I charge ye, England's rulers grant
The justice that her sons demand ;
Or, aroused, the demon power of want
Shall snatch the pike and wield the brand.

Another song of the ballad order, but not quite so sombre in tone as the above, was very popular among the workers at this time. Unfortunately, I have been unable to get more than the refrain and one of the verses. Possibly it is long ago out of print and the recollection of it lost. The refrain ran thus :—

We'll never be content till we get our ten per cent.
In spite of their—" Let well alone."

And the verse as near as can be gathered was as under :—

We went for the overlooker and he looked awhile,
And he said this loom it wants some ile (oil) ;
He iled it well in every place,
And it made a trap before his face.

It is worthy of note that attempts to counteract the riotous tendencies of the operatives were also made to the public in the form of verse. The following lines were issued as—" An antidote to the discordant grumbling instigated in factious demagogues in these piping times of peace."

Ye poor deluded weavers
Who now forsake the loom,
Beware of those deceivers
Who lure you to your doom !
Let not such base intriguers
Your honest hearts trepan,
Or selfish corn-law leaguers
Succeed in their vile plan.

Lo ! providence extending
Its bounty o'er the land,
Its precious gifts is sending
With full unsparing hand ;
Then haste ye honest weavers,
To ply again the loom,
And shun those base deceivers
Who lure you to your doom.

Despise those traitor Chartists,
With revolutions rife
Un-English Bonapartists
Who'd plunge our land in strife !
Defy those Ashton sages
Who dare to threaten still
To make you strike for wages
Or thump you to their will ;

Though venal speculators
Pretend to aid your cause,
And Irish agitators
Incite to break the laws.
Return, ye honest weavers,
To ply again the loom,
And shun those base deceivers
Who lure you to your doom.

A determined attempt was made by the shopkeepers and others in Hyde to put an end to the strikes and riots which occurred about this time, and to alleviate the distress caused thereby. Among the declarations of the day was the following from the Hyde Magistrates :—" Whereas large bodies have for some days past paraded this district within the division of Hyde and neighbourhood, and have gone about from place to place compelling working people to leave their employment. Now all persons are hereby cautioned that such proceedings are illegal, and any persons guilty of such offence will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour of the law ; and all persons assembling themselves together in a violent manner or committing any breach of the peace will be dealt with as the law directs."

The shopkeepers of Hyde actually agreed to supply the necessaries of life for a fortnight on credit in order to prevent a wide-spread starvation, and every effort was made to arrive at some plan of operations whereby a settlement of the points at issue might be reached. A handbill was published by the Hyde

tradesmen treating the strikes as labour questions rather than movements of a political character. A committee of tradesmen, formed for the "relief of distress," were waited upon by deputations of operatives, and finally the following plan was suggested as a means of bringing the disputes to a speedy termination:—1st: Neither politics nor religion shall be allowed to interfere with the subject of labour and wages until that is finally decided. 2nd: That a deputation from every department of labour from each and every mill and shop in the town and neighbourhood attend at the Working Men's Institute, Hyde, on Saturday, the 13th inst., at 6 o'clock in the evening, and bring with them a list of prices which they received for their work in January, 1840, and there and then appoint a delegate to attend a general conference (to be held next week, of which due notice will be given) to draw out one general list of prices for the whole empire, if possible, also to appoint a deputation to wait upon the manufacturers, to ascertain what prices they are prepared to give.—By order of the Committee.

History does not state that the proposed plan was successful. Evidently it did not bring about the millennium desired, for the "Plug Riots" took place some little time later, and even now the question of work and wages is a sore point at times, between masters and men.

It would be unwise as well as uninteresting to detail all the disputes and petty bitternesses which from time to time marred the relations between employer and workpeople here. Only one other leading feature need be mentioned, namely, the Great Cotton Famine—better known as the Cotton Panic. This occurred in 1861, from causes which are almost too recent to need explanation. The Civil War in America caused the supplies of raw material which this district had imported from that country to be blockaded, and as a consequence, when the local stock of cotton became exhausted, mill after mill closed, and almost every family was thrown out of employment. The distress was most painful, as many still among us can testify; though with that generous and Christian spirit which actuates the English people, relief funds were started, and as far as possible, the sufferings of the people alleviated.

There have been strikes and lock-outs in the various branches of local industries since then, but happily none so disastrous and

far reaching in effect as the Cotton Panic ; and it is to be hoped that with the growth of knowledge and the wiser forms of settling disputes now in vogue, the industrial history of the district and the town may never be marred by such sufferings of the people in the years that are to come.

CHAPTER II.

HYDE OF TO-DAY.

The following statistics of the Township of Hyde will give some idea of the rapidity of its growth :—

	Inhabited Houses.	Families.	Males.	Females.	Population.	Annual Rateable Value.
1700	—	—	—	—	300	—
1754	62	93	—	—	467	—
1801	187	187	569	520	1089	—
1811	290	317	884	922	1806	—
1821	471	505	1647	1708	3355	—
1831	1113	1292	3346	3798	7144	—
1841	1754	—	4776	5394	10170	£15818 0 0
1851	2110	—	5299	6270	11569	£31622 0 0
1861	2615	—	6335	7387	13722	£42586 0 0
1871	2955	3010	6523	7700	14223	£44748 0 0

Up to 1863 the township's affairs were conducted by a Highway Board, styled "The Board for the Repair of the Highways in the Township of Hyde." The elections of this Board were conducted in an old vestry room (now pulled down) and the following is a copy of one of the notices calling a meeting of inhabitants for that purpose :—

NOTICE.

To the inhabitants being Ley-Payers of the Township of Hyde, that the accounts of the Surveyor of the Highways will be laid open in the Vestry Room for Public Inspection, on the 27th, 28th, and 29th days of

March, 1849, from 10 o'clock in the forenoon until 4 o'clock in the afternoon of each day, and that

A VESTRY OR PUBLIC MEETING
OF THE
LEY-PAYERS

Will be held in the Vestry Room, on Thursday, March 29th, at half-past seven o'clock in the evening,

For auditing the same accounts previous to their being allowed and passed by the Magistrates in Special Sessions assembled, pursuant to Act of Parliament. Also for the purpose of nominating and electing, not exceeding 20 nor less than 5 substantial resident householders, who are assessed to the Rate for the Relief of the Poor of the said Township, and also liable to be rated to the repairs of the Highways in the same Township; to constitute a Board for the Repairs of the said Highways.

N.B.—Those persons who have not paid their Highway Rate, allowed 7th day of August, 1848, together with all arrears, are requested to do so within 5 days from the date hereof, otherwise they will be summoned to recover the same without further notice.

RICHARD BLAKEHURST, Curate of Hyde (St. George's).

THOMAS THORNELY,
JAMES BOWKER,
WILLIAM BRADLEY.
} Three of the Board of Surveyors.

SAMUEL OGDEN, Assistant Surveyor,
Hyde Vestry Room, March 13th, 1849.

In 1863, however, owing to the distress caused by the Cotton Panic, a Local Board of Health was appointed and invested with greater powers to provide labour for the people. The Board, which was established on the 12th of August, held its first meeting in the County Court Room, Clarendon Place, on Tuesday, October 27th, 1863. Its members were—

THOMAS ASHTON (Chairman).
THOMAS THORNELY.
ORLANDO OLDHAM.
JOHN HANDFORD.
EDWARD HIBBERT.
ROBERT HALL.
THOMAS WARBURTON.
JOSEPH MYCOCK.
JOHN SHEPLEY.
PETER SWAIN.
CHARLES SWINDELLS.
JOHN CHEETHAM.
JAMES BROCKLEHURST.
ZACHARIAH SMITH.
THOMAS MOTTRAM.
SAMPSON ARDERN.
THOMAS HAGUE.
THOMAS HOWARD.
WILLIAM BROOK.
JOHN THORNELY.
JOHN BRADBURY.

JOHN HIBBERT, Clerk.
JAMES HEPWORTH, Surveyor.

The Local Board continued in existence until 1881. The following is a list of gentlemen who held office as Chairmen of the Board :—

1863	Thomas Ashton.	1872	John Thornely.
1864	Thomas Thornely.	1873	Charles Fielding.
1865	Thomas Thornely.	1874	Charles Fielding.
1866	John Bradbury.	1875	Arthur P. Aspland.
1867	Thomas Warburton.	1876	Arthur P. Aspland.
1868	John Cheetham.	1877	Arthur P. Aspland.
1869	Edward Hibbert.	1878	T. H. Brunt.
1870	Robert Hall.	1879	Peter Green.
1871	Joseph Mycock.	1880	Thomas Beeley.

In 1877 the powers of the Local Board were increased, and the area extended by the addition of the townships of Newton, Godley, and North Werneth.

On August 20th, 1880, a public meeting, which was called to consider the advisability of seeking additional powers, resolved to apply for a Charter of Incorporation. Accordingly a petition, signed by 2,278 householders, and bearing the seal of the Local Board, was presented to the Queen, and in response, the Privy Council appointed the Hon. T. W. Pelham to hold a Court and make a public enquiry in Hyde. As no opposition was offered to the application, the Charter of Incorporation was granted on February 18th, 1881. The new Borough included Hyde, Newton, Werneth, and Godley, with a population of about 30,000 persons, residing in 6,711 houses, and a gross annual rateable value of £118,790.

The Borough was divided into three wards, Newton, Werneth, and Godley, each ward to return six representatives to the Town Council. The first election having taken place on April 14th, 1881, the new Council met on April 25th, when Thomas Ashton, Esq., was elected first Mayor of Hyde, Mr. J. Hibbert was appointed Town Clerk, and the following six gentlemen were created Aldermen : Thomas Ashton, Edward Hibbert, John Thornely, Thomas Thornely, Charles Swindells, and Charles Fielding.

Death has deprived the town of the services of Mr. John Hibbert, and his successor, Mr. George Stevens, resigned in 1898. The present Town Clerk is Mr. Thomas Brownson, B.A.

MAYORS OF HYDE.

1881.	April 20th.	Thomas Ashton.
1881.	Nov. 9th.	Thomas Ashton.
1882.	,,	Thomas Ashton.
1883.	,,	Edward Hibbert.
1884.	,,	Edward Hibbert.
1885.	,,	John Cheetham.
1886.	,,	John Cheetham.
1887.	,,	Joseph Mycock.
1888.	,,	Peter Green.
1889.	,,	Peter Green.
1890.	,,	Peter Green.
1891.	,,	Joseph Wild.
1892.	,,	Joseph Wild.
1893.	,,	John Oldham.
1894.	,,	John Oldham.
1895.	,,	Henry Goodier Turner.
1896.	,,	Henry Goodier Turner.
1897.	,,	Edmund Wild Smith.
1898.	,,	Edmund Wild Smith.

The latest statistics dealing with the state of the Borough are :—

Houses and Population at Census of 1891.

Extracted from Return sent by Registrar General.

Civil Parishes or Wards.	Houses.			Persons.		
	Inhabited	Uninhabited	Building	Males	Females	Total
Total of Borough ...	6559	850	37	14177	16493	30670
Civil Parishes.						
Hyde	4670	563	24	10102	11827	21929
Newton	1596	262	13	3409	3924	7333
Godley	293	25	—	666	742	1408
Wards.						
Newton	2341	322	13	4981	5732	10713
Godley	2309	283	2	5202	5868	11070
Werneth	1909	245	22	3994	4893	8887

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE BOROUGH.

	A.	R.	P.
Area of Newton Ward	981	3	13
,, Godley Ward	940	0	24
,, Werneth Ward	1120	0	21
Total Area of Borough	3,042	0	18

BURGESS ROLL, OCTOBER, 1898.

Newton	2160
Godley	2169
Werneth	1910

ESTIMATED PRESENT POPULATION OF THE BOROUGH.

Hyde and Werneth Township	23354
Newton Township	7752
Godley Township	1511
	32,617

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

The Town Hall was erected in 1883-4 at a cost of £10,000. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. Thos. Ashton, the first mayor, and the building was opened by the second mayor, Mr. Edward Hibbert. The Town Hall Clock and Bells were generously presented by Mr. Joshua Bradley, a retired spinner, who for some years occupied a seat on the Council.

The Public Baths were built in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee (1887), and were opened on May 4th, 1889.

In 1891, Mr. Peter Green laid the foundation stone of the Public Sewage Works, which were opened August, 1893.

A Fire Station, on a most elaborate scale (at a cost of £4,000) has lately been built near the Town Hall. A portion of the Back Bower estate has been converted into a Cemetery, and the first interment took place there on November 3rd, 1894.

The handsome Technical School and Free Library in Union Street, which has superseded the Mechanics' Institute, was opened by Mrs. W. M. Ashton, of Didsbury, on Feb. 18th, 1899. The foundation stone of the building was laid by Mrs. T. Ashton, of Ford Bank.

LEWISHAM PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In 1898, the Misses Ashton, of Little Onn Hall, Staffordshire, presented the Newton estate to the town, and this is shortly to be converted into a Public Park.

The Mechanics' Institute was founded in 1850. Its site was formerly occupied by a building known as the Hyde Lane Independent Chapel, which was purchased by Mr. Benjamin Goodfellow (the founder of the engineering works in Mottram Road), converted into a Mechanics' Institute and then generously handed over to trustees. Classes for teaching elementary subjects were held regularly every winter. There was also a reading room and small library attached, and lectures were given at intervals by noted men. Mr. Goodfellow financially supported the Institute during its early years when its position from a monetary standpoint was anything but promising, and on several occasions he defrayed the deficiencies in its funds. The old building was succeeded by the present structure in 1861. Part of the expense of the new erection was met by a public subscription and a series of Penny Readings materially helped to wipe off the debt of £1,200 with which the building opened. The Mechanics' Institute has played an important part in the development of Hyde, particularly in the diffusion of general knowledge among the working classes. In 1894 it was transferred to the Corporation, and became the precursor of the present Technical School.

PRESIDENTS OF THE HYDE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

1851-2	Benjamin Goodfellow, Esq.
1853	Edward Clarke, Esq.
1854	John Taylor, Esq.
1855	Dr. Frederick Tinker.
1856	Dr. Thomas Alcock.
1857	Thomas Howard, Esq.
1858	Thomas Thornely, Esq.
1859	Joseph Hibbert, Esq.
1860	John Sidebotham, Esq.

1861 Thomas Thornely, Esq.
1862 Thomas Mottram, Esq.
1863 John Alcock, Esq.
1864 John Brooks, Esq.
1865-6-7-8-9 & 1870 Thomas Ashton, Esq., J.P.
1871 Thomas Thornely, Esq., J.P.
1872 John Alcock, Esq.
1873 George B. Goodfellow, Esq.
1874 John Brooks, Esq.
1875 Charles Hibbert, Esq.
1876 Peter Green, Esq.
1877 William Berry, Esq.
1878 John C. Hibbert, Esq.
1879 Hervey Smith, Esq.
1880 Rev. W. H. Lowder, M.A.
1881-2-3-4-5-6-7-8 T. Gair Ashton, Esq., J.P.
1889 Alderman Peter Green (Mayor).
1890-1891 Dr. F. H. Tinker.
1892 T. Gair Ashton, Esq., J.P.
1893 Thomas Brownson, Esq., B.A.

Apart from the buildings which are the property of the Corporation, the principal structures in the Borough are the various places of worship and the day and Sunday schools connected with them. The Church of England is well supplied with edifices, and in nearly every case there is a day school in connection with the church. The Nonconformists also are well equipped with chapels and school accommodation, whilst the Roman Catholics are in no way behind.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH.

Prior to 1831, the Church of England had no place of worship in the township, and for ecclesiastical purposes Hyde was connected with the Parish Church of Stockport, which place many of the inhabitants attended. Others worshipped at Mottram, or at Denton Old Church; the latter building having been erected in 1531-2, by the Hydes, of Hyde Hall, in conjunction with the Hydes and the Hollands, of Denton. But the rapid increase of the population of Hyde (owing to the spread of the cotton industry), and the long hours that the people had to work, caused the need of a church within the township to become

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH (EXTERIOR)

LEWISHAM PUBLIC L

apparent. The matter was taken up by (among others) Captain Clarke, who obtained the gift of a site from his half-brother, George Clarke, and eventually St. George's Church was built.

The erection of this spacious building was commenced in 1831, the foundation stone being laid on May 28th of that year, by Captain Hyde John Clarke, J.P. The cost, about £5,000, was chiefly guaranteed by the Church Building Commissioners. The building was consecrated on October 20th, 1832, by the Rt. Rev. John Bird Sumner, D.D., Lord Bishop of Chester, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury. The church is a plain substantial stone erection in the perpendicular style, consisting of a tower, a wide nave, and a small chancel. The tower which is lofty and square, surmounted by pinnacles with floreated finials, commands a fine view of the surrounding country. It contains a clock and a peal of eight bells—the latter inscribed with the names of the following gentlemen who contributed to the cost:—

William Sidebotham Thomas Antrobus	} Churchwardens—Treble.
Thomas Howard	No. 2.
John Sidebotham	,, 3.
John Wharmby	,, 4.
Benjamin Goodfellow	,, 5.
Edward Clarke	,, 6.
Alexander Read, M.A., Incumbent,	,, 7.
Deo Gloria, St. George's Church, Hyde,	Tenor.

The first peal was rung on the 20th of March, 1853, by the ringers from Mottram Parish Church. Since that time the ringers of St. George's have distinguished themselves in various parts of the country, and have been awarded many prizes for their skill in this department.

The interior of the church (which is galleried all round), underwent renovation some years ago, and is now calculated to seat above 1,200 persons, the whole of the sittings being free. The large east window of stained glass is a fine piece of workmanship, and was the gift of John Sidebotham, Esq., J.P., of Kingston. A large memorial window on the western side was inserted by Mrs. Horsfield, of the Longlands, in memory of her son, and on the north and south sides most of the original windows have been replaced by panes of stained glass in commemoration of

departed parishioners. The edifice also contains tablets to the memory of the Rev. Alexander Read and the Rev. Herbert Alkin, former vicars, and one perpetuating the labours of Richard Gilbody and George Middleton, two workers in the Sunday Schools.

In the main entrance of the church, beneath the tower, is the family vault of the Clarkes—descendants of the ancient lords of Hyde—and there sleeps Captain Hyde John Clarke, who for many years was the chief figure in this part of the country.

On the wall above the vault are tablets containing the following inscriptions :—

"Sacred to the memory of Hyde John Clarke, Esq., formerly of Hyde Hall, afterwards of Llangollen, a Captain in the Royal Navy, and one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace, who departed this life at Oswestry on the 18th day of November, A.D. 1857. Ætat 80 years. He came to his last abiding place full of piety and full of days. In the various relations of life he was most exemplary. He was eminent alike for his private virtues and his public services. And now he rests from his labours and his works do follow him."

"Sacred to the memory of Ann Clarke, wife of Hyde John Clarke, Captain Royal Navy, died August 21st, 1843, aged 58 years."

"Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth Mary, fourth daughter of Hyde John Clarke, Captain in the Royal Navy, and Ann his wife, who died on the 11th of January, 1841, in the 16th year of her age."

There is also a tablet commemorating the remaining members of Captain Clarke's family.

For years the churchyard in connection with St. George's provided the principal burial accommodation in the district, and about 40,000 of the former inhabitants of Hyde are interred there.

St. George's was first formed into an ecclesiastical parish in 1843. The clergy have been :—

Rev. Herbert Alkin, from 1832 to his death in 1849.
Rev. Alexander Read, B.A., 1849 to 1875.
Rev. W. H. Lowder, M.A., 1875 to 1888.
Rev. W. G. Bridges, M.A., present vicar.

St. George's School was opened on Whit Sunday, May 22nd, 1836, the foundation stone having been laid in the previous year by Mrs. Thomas Howard. The large school in Henry Street was added in 1870, at a cost of £1,400.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH (INTERIOR).

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH.

The ecclesiastical district of St. Thomas' was formed by an order in council, August 27th, 1846. Service was first held in a building which was originally a Working Men's Institute, and a prominent centre of the Chartist agitation. This building is now used as a day and Sunday school in connection with the parish. The church was erected in 1868 by subscription, at a cost of £3,000. Its style is early English, and the building consists of nave and chancel. The living is in the gift of the Crown and Bishop alternately. The first vicar was the Rev. A. Read, B.A., appointed by the Crown on October 9th, 1846. He resigned in 1849 on his appointment to the incumbency of St. George's. His successors have been: Rev. — Crosland, Rev. Robert Leigh, M.A., Rev. W. H. White, M.A., Rev. W. Gardner, M.A., and the Rev. W. A. Edwards, M.A., the present vicar, who recently exchanged livings with Mr. Gardner.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, NEWTON.

The parish church of St. Mary's, Newton, was built in 1839, chiefly through the munificence of the Ashtons of Newton. It is a neat edifice in the Norman style, consisting of nave and chancel, the latter having been enlarged since the original building. The first vicar was the Rev. G. W. Bowers, who held the living about 40 years. He was succeeded by the Rev. C. E. Graham-Jones, who some years ago exchanged livings with the present vicar, the Rev. John Farnham Messenger, M.A.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, GODLEY.

Church work commenced in this parish in 1837, the place of meeting being a room, over a hovel, near the Commercial Hotel. This meeting house becoming too small for the growing congregation, a room in Turner Brow, belonging to Mr. John Turner was rented. Still growing, the congregation next rented an old school in Newton Street, and on the arrival of the Rev. R. K. Bateson in 1847 they took a room at the place now known as the Church Inn. The present edifice of St. John's was consecrated on the 11th of April, 1850, but the tower, 70 ft. high, with the spirelet 30 ft., was not completed till 1879. The first incumbent was the Rev. R. K. Bateson, B.D., who was appointed in 1847. After a life of great activity and usefulness, which won the esteem of all classes in the town, Mr. Bateson died in 1885. He was succeeded

in that year by the Rev. C. P. Ford, who resigned his charge in 1891. The third and present vicar is the Rev. H. Stephens.

HOLY TRINITY, GEE CROSS.

The church of Holy Trinity, Gee Cross, was built by subscriptions in 1874, in the early English style, at a cost of £2,500. It is a handsome stone erection, consisting of chancel, nave, transept, and organ chamber, with a spire and belfry. containing one bell. The church contains about 300 free sittings. Its clergy have been the Rev. Thomas Burke, B.A., and the Rev. Thomas George Williams.

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, FLOWERY FIELD.

The parish church of Flowery Field was consecrated in 1891, the foundation stone having been laid nearly two years earlier. The present building was the outcome of a Mission Church (an offshoot from St. Mary's, Newton, started about 1883), and was erected through the munificence of Colonel Ashton, of Newton, and Little Onn, Staffordshire. It is a fine stone building, in the 13th century style of architecture, containing nave and chancel, and boasting a handsome tower and spire of about 120 feet high. The first and present vicar is the Rev. T. M. Tozer, M.A.

ST. ANDREW'S MISSION CHURCH.

Mission work in the St. Andrew's district was begun in 1874 in the Temperance Hall, by the Revs. W. H. White, Dudley, Diggs, and Dr. Smith. Success attending the movement, the present buildings were erected in 1875. For a time Dr. Smith had sole charge of the budding church, but in 1885 it was again taken over by the Rev. W. H. White, and the Rev. D. S. Bowen became Curate-in-Charge. During his time the purchase of the building was completed; whilst a fund for providing an endowment (towards which the Bishop of Chester's Fund granted £1,000) was completed by locally raised sums in 1897. In 1893 the Rev. M. Wilson, M.A., succeeded Mr. Bowen, and was in turn succeeded in 1896 by the Rev. W. Graham, under whom many improvements have been effected. The present curate is the Rev. J. Lawton.

NONCONFORMITY IN HYDE.

Hegginbotham, in his history of Stockport, gives a list of 59 names supposed to belong to Hyde worthies who signed a memorial to Charles I., relative to the disagreements between the

HYDE CHAPEL (PAST).

HYDE CHAPEL (PRESENT).

Episcopal section and the Puritans. No definite steps, however, were taken to establish a Nonconformist place of worship in Hyde until some years after the Act of Toleration.

HYDE CHAPEL, GEE CROSS.

In 1708, on an estate belonging to an ancestor of the Thornelys, the original chapel at Gee Cross was built—largely under Presbyterian influence. The district at that time contained only a few scattered farmers, and there was no other place of worship in the township. For nearly 100 years the chapel remained the only place for public worship in Hyde, until in 1814, the Independent Chapel was built on the site now occupied by the Mechanics' Institute.

The original Hyde chapel was a low building of stone with a small flat gallery entered by an outside stone staircase. "It was fitted up," says Mr. Hibbert, "with wooden benches without backs, standing on an earthen floor, which in wet weather was covered with rushes." Among the first trustees the following names occur :—Thornely, Shepley, Ashton, Brook, Mottram, Hegginbotham, Harrison, Sidebotham, Gee, and others, showing the ancestors of the principal Hyde families to have been concerned in the erection of this old and interesting place of worship. That the chapel flourished in its earlier years is evident from the fact that a return made in 1715 states that "at Hyde, John Cooper had 674 hearers, 10 gentlemen, 39 tradesmen, and 70 yeomen, including 65 voters for the county."

The present chapel is built of stone and is of most beautiful appearance. Its style is partly early English and it consists of a nave with north and south aisles and chancel, and a fine tower and spire rising to the height of 145 feet. The nave is divided by rows of clustered pillars from which spring moulded arches which support the clerestory. The chapel took two years to build and cost £7,500. Upon a stone tablet over the north door is this inscription :—

This House of Prayer, standing near the site of a chapel built A.D. 1708, was erected A.D. 1846 by the descendants of the founders, and dedicated to the worship of our Lord Jesus Christ, under the protection of that Act of Public Justice, 7 and 8 Vict. c. 45, which secures to non-subscribing dissenters peaceful possession of the Chapel and Endowments of their pious forefathers.

PASTORS OF HYDE CHAPEL.

JOHN COOPER, 1710 to 1731.
THOMAS HARTLEY, 1732 to 1755.
JOHN HOUGHTON, 1755 to 1760.
SAMUEL MERCER, 1760 to 1764.
GEORGE CHUKLEY, 1765 to 1779.
BRISTOWE COOPER, 1779 to 1805.
JAMES BROOKS, 1805 to 1851.
CHARLES BEARD, B.A., 1851 to 1866.
H. ENFIELD DOWSON, B.A., present Pastor.

UNION STREET CONGREGATIONAL CHAPEL.

One of the oldest and most prominent centres of Nonconformist thought in Hyde is the Congregational Chapel in Union Street. The history of its foundation is interesting. Up to 1811 the only place of worship in the district was the old Presbyterian Chapel, at Gee Cross. As a consequence, Unitarian ideas were gaining ground, whilst residents holding Trinitarian doctrines were obliged to travel some distance each Sunday in order to join in worship according to their own theological views. This unsatisfactory state of things was laid before the Rev. T. Bennett, of Dukinfield, who consented to come over and preach if a suitable room could be secured. Permission was given by the Messrs. Ashton, cotton manufacturers, for services to be held in a room owned by them in Cross Street. Here Mr. Bennett preached his first sermon on May 30th, 1811. After a short time the permission to use the premises was withdrawn, and the services were continued at the house of a Mr. Gee, in Hyde Lane, opposite the end of Union Street. Prosperity attending the movement a plot of land was taken and the "Hyde Lane Chapel" was built on the site of the Mechanics' Institute in 1814. In 1822 an effort was made to "establish a church on Congregational principles," and the following gentlemen formed themselves into the first Congregational Church in Hyde, Thomas Kenworthy, Edwin Price, J. Pickford, John Robinson, John Chadwick, John North, David Shawcross, John Burgess, William Platt, Elijah Roebuck, John Radcliffe. Mr. Oram was appointed first minister, but he resigned his pastorate the following year. In 1824 a new and larger chapel was built on the site of the old one, and two years later Mr. Massey, a student of Airedale College,

commenced his ministrations in the new building. He was succeeded in 1836 by the Rev. Edward Edwards, who held the pastorate till 1841. The succeeding ministers were the Rev. R. Calvert, 1841-1856; Mr. Gavin to 1863; Rev. T. Robinson, B.A., 1864 to 1885; Rev. H. J. Just, 1885-1893; Rev. J. Gascoigne, 1893-1899. The Union Street Chapel was erected in 1843, and several years afterwards the old building in Hyde Lane was taken over by the authorities of the Hyde Mechanics' Institute.

ZION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

An off-shoot of Union Street was built in 1847, at a cost of £1,550. The first resident pastor was the Rev. Edward Day, who remained from 1849 to 1853, when he removed to Australia. The succeeding ministers have been Rev. A. Stroyan, appointed in 1854, Rev. Wm. Henessey, appointed 1878, Rev. D. H. Jacobs, Rev. J. Riley, and Rev. T. Nicholas, the present holder of the pastorate.

WESLEYAN METHODISTS.

An old building—now pulled down and replaced by the well-built Jubilee Schools—was long the centre of Wesleyanism in Hyde. The first trustees of this building were appointed in 1822, and consisted of Thomas Ashton, John Howard, Charles Howard, and Thomas Howard, Esqs., cotton spinners; John Clarke, Esq., S. Ashton, the younger, John Ashton, the younger, and Thomas Bridges, cotton spinners; Thomas Davis, minister; John Goodfellow and Aaron Newall, mechanics; J. Rowland, overlooker; J. Chippendale, exciseman; J. Rydings, cabinet maker; and J. Waterhouse, slater. A structure two storeys high was built, "the upper storey to be used as a preaching house by the Wesleyans and the lower room for Sunday and day school." The expenses of the building were to be borne as under:—"T. Ashton on behalf of self and brother, and J. C. and T. Howard will at their own private expense erect, complete, and finish the lower storey, and the said trustees shall at the expense of the Wesleyan Methodist Society erect the second storey except the roof, which the said T. Ashton, his brothers, and J. C. and T. Howard shall complete at their own private cost." The trustees decided that the lower room should be under the management of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and that if ever the Society

became extinct they should have power to sell the preaching room and school, and after paying all debts apply the money for the spread of religion among the Wesleyans, as the trustees should direct. This old building rendered good service to Hyde, for in the language of Mr. Robert Bell's report (1886), "it was here for many years the main business of the town was transacted ; our children were educated, our friends worshipped, our births and deaths were recorded, and our poor relieved." The growth of Wesleyanism was met in 1850 by the erection of the large chapel in Norfolk Street, and yet again when the Jubilee Schools were built to replace the original building just referred to. There are also fine chapels, with Sunday schools attached, in connection with the Wesleyan body in Newton and Gee Cross.

ROSEMOUNT PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL.

Sunday evening services in connection with this place of worship were started in a cottage in Flowery Field in the "forties." among the principal attenders being Mr. S. Beeley and Mr. T. Stafford. In 1852, a cottage in Ashton Road was fitted up as a chapel, and in the same year a Sunday school was formed, one of the first members being Mr. T. Beeley, C.A., J.P. This institution carried on a night school to which many people of the district were indebted for their education. The instruction was imparted on the Mutual Improvement principle, those being able to read and write transmitting their knowledge to the rest. In 1860 it was found necessary to increase the chapel accommodation and shortly afterwards a new place of worship was built. After ten years' service this building also was found insufficient for the growing needs, and the present handsome structure at Rosemount was erected, and opened on July 9th, 1876. A spacious school was added in 1884. Both school and chapel are in a flourishing condition.

PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, HOVILEY BROW.

The congregation worshipping at the Hoviley Brow Chapel began in a very small way and built a chapel for public worship on the site of the present Sunday schools about 1830. For a time the movement made little progress against the difficulties it had to face, but eventually the congregation increased until the old building was too small to supply the required accommodation.

Finally the present chapel was erected on the opposite side of street. The old building continued to be used as a Sunday school, but again the growth of the movement made it necessary to build fresh premises, and in 1885, on July 11th, were laid the foundation stone of the present handsome and commodious buildings which now serve as Sunday school.

METHODIST NEW CONNEXION, GEORGE STREET.

In the year 1830 the connexion commenced work in Hyde, a small room in Cross Street being used for religious worship. In 1833, the Church had grown sufficiently to warrant the erection of a small chapel in George Street. The leading spirit in the movement about that time seems to have been a Mr. John Leech. A Sunday school was formed and this appears to have strengthened the church. Progress continuing, the large George Street Chapel was erected in 1858. The old schools were replaced in 1885 by the present spacious building adjoining the chapel.

FLOWERY FIELD UNITARIAN CHURCH.

This place of worship was built in 1878, at the sole cost of the late Thomas Ashton, Esq., J.P., of Didsbury. It is a handsome stone building in the Tudor Gothic style, ornamented with a fine tower. The ministers have been the Rev. John Kertain Smith, Rev. Harold Rylett, Rev. W. L. Tucker.

ST. PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Roman Catholic services were originally held in a room, over a smith's shop, in Hamnet Street, and the Rev. J. Quealy came over from Ashton to officiate. In 1848 the Rev. John Reah was appointed first resident priest, and the foundation stone of the church was laid in 1853. The site was given by Mr. Robert Ashton of the Printworks—a Unitarian. The list of priests, with the date of their appointments, is as follows :—1848, Rev. J. Reah; 1853, Rev. J. Hill; 1869, Rev. Henry Hopkins; 1879, Rev. Patrick Tracy; 1882, Rev. C. Langdon; 1888, Rev. T. Ratcliffe; 1889, Rev. J. Thompson; 1896, Rev. J. A. Hennelly.

The Baptists possess a fine and substantial chapel, with Sunday school attached, well situated in Chapel Street. Opposite

this is the Friends' Meeting House, built in 1873, and now principally used by the Hyde Town Mission. The Methodist Free Church have also a fine and commodious building, with a flourishing Sunday school in Newton. . . . . .

Before closing this part of the history of the township, it should be recorded that under the new Franchise Act, which came in force in 1885, Hyde became the centre of a Parliamentary constituency, and returned in that year, as its first representative, Mr. Thomas Gair Ashton, eldest son of the first Mayor of Hyde. In 1886, however, on the appeal to the country after the rejection of Mr. Gladstone's first Home Rule Bill, Mr. Ashton was defeated by Mr. J. W. Sidebotham, who still holds the seat.

Under the Local Government Act of 1888, Hyde became entitled to three representatives on the newly formed Cheshire County Council. The town possesses a Borough Bench of Magistrates and a force of Borough Police. The latter formally commenced their duties on April 1st, 1899.

CHAPTER III.

THE MURDER OF THOMAS ASHTON OF WERNETH.

The *Stockport Advertiser*, of the 7th of January, 1831, contains the following report of this occurrence :—

HORRID MURDER.

On Monday last one of the most cruel and sanguinary murders which ever disgraced a civilised people was perpetrated on the body of Mr. Thomas Ashton, eldest son of Samuel Ashton, Esq., of Pole Bank, Werneth, in this parish, so early as seven o'clock in the evening. The victim of this cold-blooded and diabolical act of assassination, who was in his 24th year, and remarkable for his kind and conciliating disposition and manners, had the management of a new mill belonging to his father at Woodley, from whence he had just returned and was on his way to the other mill at Apethorn to superintend for his younger brother, James, who had just left home to spend the evening with a family near Stockport. The father and mother were in the house at the time waiting the return of the carriage to join the brother and the other part of the family who had gone with him, and the effect of so distressing a communication may more easily be imagined than described. It appeared on the examination of the witnesses before the coroner that the unfortunate gentleman had not proceeded on the public highway, after quitting the private road, which leads from Pole Bank to Apethorn Mills, more than 30 yards before he was shot; and it would appear on examination of the premises about the fatal spot that the assassins had awaited his approach, sitting behind a hedge bank on the road side, which situation gave them the best opportunity of seeing or hearing the approach of their victim from his father's house down the private pathway. The breast was perforated at the edge of the bone by two bullets from a horse pistol or blunderbuss which passed out at the left shoulder blade, having taken an oblique direction upwards. His death must have been instantaneous, for when found the right hand was in his great coat pocket—a manner of placing it quite usual with him when walking. He was lying in a shallow ditch on the contrary side of the road to the one generally taken by the family after going to the mill, and this is accounted for by the supposition that he must have retreated to the other side when approached by the assassin in order to avoid him. The muzzle of the

weapon appears to have been placed close to his breast, as the wadding had perforated his garments, and part of it (some coarse blue paper) had entered his body, and was concealed in the sternum. Other parts of it (some white adhesive plaister) which had covered the balls, having been folded four times, had not entered the body, but was removed with the clothes ; and the use of this extraordinary material will, in all probability, lead to the detection of the villain.

It is perhaps necessary to supplement this report by the few following particulars. The Ashtons, even at that time, were one of the largest and best known manufacturing families in the North of England. Thomas Ashton, the victim of the murder, was the eldest son of Samuel Ashton, of Pole Bank, who owned two mills, one at Woodley and one at Apethorn. Thomas managed the Woodley mill, and James Ashton, a younger brother, was the manager at Apethorn. It was the custom of the brothers to visit their respective mills each evening, but on the 3rd of January, 1831, James, who had received an invitation to a Ball at Highfield House, near Stockport, requested his elder brother to visit the Apethorn mill in his stead. Whilst proceeding to carry out this request, Mr. Thomas Ashton was, as already stated, shot dead in Apethorn Lane about seven o'clock in the evening. A third and younger brother was the late Mr. Benjamin Ashton, J.P., whom popular rumour erroneously assigns as the intended victim of the murder.

The inquest, which was held on Wednesday, January 5th, 1831, at the Boy and Barrel Inn, Gee Cross, substantiated the items given in the newspaper account. One of the witnesses, a servant at Pole Bank, said "Mr. Ashton left the house a little after seven to officiate for his brother, having just before that time arrived thither from the mill at Woodley. In a quarter of an hour after his departure, information was brought to the family of the melancholy event. The messenger who brought the intelligence first asked for Mr. Thomas, and on being told that he had gone out, said he believed he was down in the lane badly hurt. In ten minutes afterwards he was brought in dead." Another witness, who discovered Mr. Ashton, said that "he stumbled over him as he lay in the road, and thinking it was somebody drunk, went to Swindells' farm, adjoining the spot, and procuring a lanthorn was able to identify him. The body was carried to Pole Bank in an arm-chair and laid out on the kitchen dresser." Several witnesses swore to "having seen three suspicious men, armed with a gun, parading the lane close to the

spot of the murder shortly before the report of fire-arms was heard," and it was stated that "the people of the farm just below the scene of the murder, who were milking at the time the shot was fired, were immediately afterwards startled by three men rushing through the farmyard and jumping over the gate into the meadow." Ultimately the jury returned a verdict of "Wilful Murder against three persons unknown."

Much excitement was occasioned by the tragedy, and the day after the inquest several persons were taken into custody and examined by Captain Clarke, at Hyde. The following advertisement was immediately printed and sent far and wide :—

£500 Reward.

Whereas some vile and daring miscreant or miscreants about seven o'clock in the evening of yesterday (Monday, the 3rd of January instant), waylaid Mr. Thomas Ashton, son of Mr. Samuel Ashton, of Pole Bank, Werneth, in the county of Cheshire, Esquire: on the road between Pole Bank aforesaid and Apethorn Mill, belonging to the said Samuel Ashton, situate within Werneth aforesaid, and then and there discharged at the said Thomas Ashton certain loaded firearms, which immediately occasioned his death. Now in order to detect and bring to justice the perpetrator or perpetrators of this most horrible and diabolical act, the said Samuel Ashton, the father of the deceased, hereby offers the sum of £500 as a reward to any person or persons who will give such information as shall lead to the apprehension and conviction of the party or parties who committed the same.

Samuel Ashton,
Pole Bank, Werneth.

January 4th, 1831.

This reward was supplemented by a further grant of £1,000, and a promise of pardon from the King, to any one of the three suspected persons who would give evidence; unless such person was the one who actually fired the shot.

The offer was thus announced through the agency of the newspapers and posters :—

Wilfull Murder. £1,500 Reward.

Royal Proclamation.

Whitehall, January, 1831.

Whereas, it hath been humbly presented unto the King, that about seven o'clock on the evening of Monday, the 3rd day of January instant, Mr. Thomas Ashton, son of Samuel Ashton, Esq., of Werneth, near Stockport, in the County of Chester, when going to his father's house, was killed by a pistol shot fired at him by some evil disposed persons

unknown. His Majesty, for the better apprehending and bringing to justice the persons concerned in the felony before mentioned, is hereby pleased to promise his most gracious pardon to any one of them, excepting the person who actually fired the shot, who shall discover his accomplice or accomplices therein, so that he, she, or they may be apprehended and convicted thereof.

Signed, MELBOURNE.

And, as a further encouragement, a reward of £1,500 is hereby offered to any person, except as aforesaid, who shall discover the said offenders, so that he, she, or they may be apprehended and convicted of the said offence, such reward to be paid in the undermentioned sums, namely :—

£500 by the above named Samuel Ashton,
£500 by other relatives of the deceased,
£500 by the Master Spinners of the district.

And in case any person or persons should give such information as hereinbefore described, arrangements will be made for affording such protection as will effectually secure him or they from any risk of personal violence.

Notwithstanding these liberal offers, and in spite of the fact that the criminals had been seen by different persons, the crime remained a mystery for several years. Some months after the murder the district was roused to fresh excitement by the reported confession of a mad Scotchman, who claimed to have shot Mr. Ashton when in company with two companions. A little later still another foolish individual startled the country with a remarkable statement of complicity in the Apethorn murder. He claimed to know the actual culprit, and even went so far as to accuse certain individuals of the crime. The statements were, however, proved to be gross libels by half insane people, and the mystery still continued to defy solution ; indeed, all hope of its eventual clearance seems to have been abandoned.

In April, 1834, however, the excitement was rekindled, when it became known that a man in Derby gaol had made statements likely to throw considerable light upon the matter. The statements referred to led to the arrest of two men in Marple, who were, in the course of the ensuing week, privately examined by Captain Clark and remanded. A final examination took place on May 5th, 1834, and after eighteen witnesses had been called the men were committed for trial, and removed in irons to Chester.

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Before the day of trial arrived it was generally known throughout the district that William Mosley, one of the three prisoners, had turned King's evidence, and was to be brought as a witness against his companions. The trial took place in the Crown Court of Chester Castle, before Baron Parke, on the 6th August, 1834, and the greatest interest was taken in the proceedings. The prosecution was conducted by the Attorney-General, and the hearing lasted the whole of the day, until exactly eleven o'clock at night.

A report from a paper of the time gives the following description of the prisoners:—

James Garside, 25, and Joseph Mosley, 34, were placed at the bar indicted for the wilful murder of Mr. Thomas Ashton, Junior, at Werneth, January, 1831, by shooting him with a leaden bullet discharged from a pistol. Both the prisoners were men of low stature and ordinary appearance, and were dressed as labourers. Garside was a little taller than Mosley, and had much lighter hair and eyes. Both appeared to be fully sensible of the danger of their situation, and occasionally Mosley was much excited by the evidence.

Without going into a detailed and wearying account of the evidence, some extracts from it may be given.

One witness—William Tayler—a joiner at the Apethorn Mill, in the course of his examination, said:—

"On the night in question I was going from Apethorn Mill about six or seven minutes past seven. George Wagstaff was with me. We were going up Apethorn Lane when we saw a man lying one half on the road and the other in the ditch. . . . . We went up and looked at him. We then went to the farmhouse near to get a light, and went to him again; and then we found a man dead, but at first we thought him only drunk. . . . . He was covered with blood so that we could not distinguish his countenance. We went for a surgeon who found he was dead, and then I recognised him to be Mr. Thomas Ashton. I did not touch him; he was taken home in an armchair. . . . . We afterwards examined the place with the lanthorn, and we observed two seats (marks where two persons had sat) on the back of the fence, on the opposite side of the fence to which the body lay."

Other witnesses corroborated, chief of whom were Hannah Oldham, who stated the practice adopted by the Ashton Brothers;

William Tinker, surgeon, of Hyde, who deposed to the cause of the death; Mary Darbyshire, of Marple, who spoke to seeing the prisoners together near Compstall, subsequent to the murder; Samuel Taylor, farmer, Lousy Thorn; Martha Percival, mill operative, who met three men in Apethorn Lane on the night of the murder, one of them having something like a gun in his hand; John Lowe, who heard the report of firearms and shortly afterwards saw two men come running past him; Samuel Chorlton, Hyde, attorney; Captain Clarke, Hyde; and William Geoffrey Lockett, magistrate for the County of Derby, who proved a statement made to him by the prisoner Garside in the presence of James Ashton, brother of the deceased. Mr. James Ashton also gave the following evidence:—"In January, 1831, I had the superintendence of Apethorn Mill, and my brother that of Woodley. I was in the habit of going from the house to the mill, down the private road, about the hour of seven in the evening. On the 3rd of January, 1831, having to go out to a friend's, I arranged with my brother to attend the Apethorn Mill for me. At this time there was considerable excitement amongst the workpeople in Ashton and Stalybridge. I had discharged one man the day before for belonging to the Union."

SCENE OF THE MURDER OF MR. THOMAS ASHTON—APETHORN LANE.

The greatest interest, of course, was centred in the evidence of William Mosley, the informer. Having stated that he was brother to the prisoner Mosley, witness deposed to meeting the two prisoners at the Stag's Head, Marple, on the Wednesday before the murder. One of them asked him if he was out of

work, and on being told that he was—but was going to Macclesfield the next day to procure employment—Garside said he had better stop a few days as they could secure him a better job than any he could find. On the following Sunday, according to agreement, the three met on Marple Bridge between twelve and one o'clock. From thence they went to Compstall Brow, at the top of which they met two men. Mosley, at the request of his brother, stood aside, and the men talked with the prisoners. He could not hear all what was said, but he heard something about the Union. To quote the witness's own words—

"They remained talking about an hour, and when they went I joined my brother and Garside, and I asked them what they were going to do, and they both said they had agreed with those men to shoot one of the Mr. Ashtons. I asked what it was for, and they said it was on account of the Union—the turnout. I asked what they must have for it, and they said £10. They said I must meet them on Werneth Low, at Wright's Tower, on the 3rd of January, about four or five o'clock at night. On the Monday I set out from Romiley, to go to Wright's Tower, at about four o'clock. I could not see them there. I then went on to the Gravel Pits, and I met with them standing there. On leaving the Gravel Pits we went by the footpath to the turnpike road, and then we went to the end of the lane leading down to the canal. . . . . When we got to the lane Garside and me changed shoes. I had a pair of well-nailed shoes. Garside put one on, and I kept the other. I took his hat and gave him my cap. No other exchange was made. When we were about twenty or thirty yards down the lane we met a man, and next a little girl met us. A little further on we met a boy with a lantern, and then a man opposite the clap gate leading to Mr. Ashton's. My brother went across the road to look at him. He bent down to look in his face. He passed on. Garside asked Joseph whether he knew him, and he said no. We all then went over the hedge into the field, and stopped in the footpath leading up to Mr. Ashton's. I was on the higher ground and could see them. They were sat on the ditch bank with their heads down, one a little higher than the other. A short space afterwards there came a man down the footpath toward the clap gate. Garside got up, came and met him in the field before he got through the gate, and pointed the piece at him. He gave way. Garside fired the piece. When Mr. Ashton gave

way he only went a little out of the way. Garside met him and he went back. He had got through the clap gate when the shot was fired, and he was going along the road towards the mill. The man who was shot fell across the road, with his head towards the right hand side, opposite to where I was. The last man who passed us could not have got out of hearing when the shot was fired. We immediately ran away, and I made the best of my way across the fields to the second canal bridge. We were to meet at the first bridge, and I retreated back to the first bridge, and they were standing on the bridge. Garside had the piece in his hand, and I asked him had he shot him. He said "Yes, dead enough. He never stirred at after." . . . . I asked which of the Messrs. Ashton they had shot, and they said *it didn't matter which it was, it was one of them.* We parted at Hatherlow. I saw them again on the following Wednesday on the road leading to Marple Bridge. When I saw them the man Schofield, or Stansfield, was with them. He pulled out three sovereigns and said he had settled with them two, and would settle with me. I received two of them. He pulled out a book for us all to sign, to say we had had the money. We all went down on our knees then, and made a confession to God; declaring to God that we would never tell, and praying to God to strike us dead if we told. We did it one after another. We everyone held a knife in turn over the other while we said so."

It is unnecessary to go further into the evidence. The judge's charge to the jury was two hours and eight minutes in length. Without leaving the box the jury returned a verdict of "guilty" against James Garside and Joseph Mosley. Both prisoners fainted when the verdict was given, and fell to the floor. They were raised and supported by the officers to hear the passing of the sentence, at the conclusion of which they sank back into the arms of the officers, and in that state were removed from sight.

A rude print, bearing date Nov. 21st, 1834, and published from the *Advertiser* Office, Stockport, gives some interesting particulars of the execution and the lives of the culprits. It appears that the Sheriff of Chester having refused to see execution done on the bodies of James Garside and Joseph Mosley, the prisoners were reprieved and removed to London, to await judgment upon the point. A powerful appeal for mercy was made on

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their behalf, but eventually it was decided that the execution should take place at Horsemonger Lane Gaol, on Tuesday, Nov. 25th, 1834.

Two days prior to the execution Garside addressed a petition to the Duke of Wellington, praying for pardon, and this proving unavailing he is said to have given way to temporary frenzy. After some time, however, he became more reconciled, and both prisoners are said to have shown great hardihood. On the scaffold, Garside protested he was innocent of the crime, and that William Mosley, the informer, was the guilty party. Joseph Mosley also declared his innocence to the last.

Garside was a native of Marple, and was only 25 years old at the time of his execution. The year following the crime he married Rebecca Tallents, of the Floodgates, Marple, and they had one child, which has since died. In the early part of 1834 he stole a brass machine from his employers, Messrs. Staffords, of New Mills, for which offence he was committed to Derby Jail. It was whilst serving this imprisonment that he gave the information which led to the arrest of his two companions in crime.

The Mosleys were born at Romiley, and their conduct from their earliest days was villainous in the extreme. Their father died of a broken heart on hearing of the last piece of villainy, which terminated on the scaffold. Joseph married and had four children. He was dismissed from his employment at Strines for felony, in 1829, after which he travelled the country as a wizard, with considerable profit to himself. He was suspected of complicity in the murder of Joseph Nadin, at the Willows, Marple, in 1829, and in alliance with Garside in 1830 was guilty of many depredations of a capital nature. He continued to live an idle and desperate life, and was following his system of fortune telling in Marple, when he was apprehended, along with his brother William, for the crime for which he was executed.

A few months after the execution William Mosley, the informer, was obliged to leave the neighbourhood, and for years his whereabouts was unknown. He returned, however, on April 7th, 1865, having been away over 30 years, and was admitted into the Stockport Workhouse, where he died at the age of 60 years, after staying in the Union 10 days.

Mr. F. Daniels, the late Relieving Officer (in a letter addressed to a relative of the present writer, who in his youth had been acquainted with the victim of the murder), gives the following particulars respecting the close of William Mosley's life :—

STOCKPORT UNION OFFICES, 1868.

Sir,—On the 7th day of April, 1868, I gave an order to admit William Mosley, aged 60 years, into Stockport Union Workhouse. When he applied to me for an order to go into the house I asked him where he came from, and he said from Carlisle, Cumberland, and that he was a shoemaker, and had been living there many years, although he belonged to Marple, having served his apprenticeship with a Mr. Holmes, of Marple. I then asked him if he was not the William Mosley who shot Mr. Thomas Ashton, at Apethorn. He said, "I was with Garside when Thomas Ashton was shot. I did not shoot him. We tossed up, and it fell to my lot, but Garside took the pistol out of my hands, and he shot him. A Mr. Stansfield, or Schofield, paid us £10 to do the job, and we divided the money." He went into the Workhouse, and died there about ten days after being admitted.

FRANCIS DANIELS,
Relieving Officer, Hyde.

In order to show more fully the brutality and horror of this crime it may be mentioned that Mr. Thomas Ashton, the victim, was only 24 years of age, and was noted far and wide for the kindness of his disposition. The exact spot where Mr. Ashton fell was kept visible for years by the workpeople scraping their feet over it when passing, and thus preventing the grass growing there. Mr. Samuel Ashton subsequently had a number of stones embedded in the ditch, to mark the place, and also planted over it an ash tree, which still stands as a memorial of the tragedy.

CHAPTER IV.

SOME HYDE INCIDENTS OF THE LAST 100 YEARS.

MANY a chapter might be written from the material that is presented by the miscellaneous collection of local events, curious, phenomenal, or otherwise, that the last 100 years have seen transpire.

One of the most startling occurrences of the close of the eighteenth century was

THE GREAT FLOOD OF 1799.

This flood was of such magnitude that the valleys were inundated, and the rivers of the neighbourhood were swollen into rapid and dangerous streams. Bridges were swept away, trees

OLD GIBRALTAR MILL—FLOODMARK.

carried down by the streams, and the banks of the rivers suffered considerable damage. The depth of the Tame was increased by several yards, and where its banks chanced to be low no small

amount of damage and inconvenience was caused. It is related that at the funeral of an ancestor of the Thornelys it was found necessary to go round by Offerton, in order to get from Hyde to the parish church at Stockport, as the local bridges had been destroyed. Other instances of equal inconvenience might be given. A record of the flood is still kept in the Tame Valley at Gibraltar, where a broad white line on the water-side of the old mill indicates the "Flood Mark, August 17th, 1799."

It is a somewhat long leap from the inundation of 1799, to the Chartist and Irish agitations of almost the middle of the present century. Such a leap, however, is necessary, if one would plunge at once into the midst of the most exciting period that Hyde, probably, has ever known. The decades of "the thirties" and "the forties" were times when all "good and true" men must perforce enrol themselves as special constables "to maintain law and order and protect the public peace." More than one Hyde family still possesses the service baton, bearing the Royal Arms, which was used by some past worthy of the family when serving as a special constable at the time of the Chartist and other industrial disturbances of 50 years ago.

THE CHARTIST AGITATIONS.

The Chartist agitations in this district were numerous. Our oldest inhabitants can still remember the great mass meetings which were held on Godley Green and in other portions of Hyde, when many leading exponents of Chartism spoke. The "vital spark" of the Chartist movement—Joseph Rayner Stephens—was frequently in Hyde, and in the Cheshire indictment against him the following passages occur :—

Cheshire to wit: The jurors of our Sovereign Lady the Queen, upon their oath, present that Joseph Rayner Stephens, late of Hyde, in the County of Chester, Dissenting teacher, and divers to wit, 3,000 other persons to the jurors unknown, unlawfully and maliciously intending to disturb the public peace, and to endanger the persons and property of, and terrify and alarm a great number of Her Majesty's quiet and peaceable subjects, and to raise and excite discontent in the minds of Her Majesty's subjects within the laws of this realm, and to excite them to tumult and disobedience of the laws heretofore; to wit, on the 14th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1838, with force and arms at Hyde, in the County of Chester, aforesaid, did seditiously, unlawfully, and tumultuously assemble and meet together after sunset and before sunrise, by torchlight and with firearms, staves, and other weapons of

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offence, and in a tumultuous and disorderly manner and did then and there remain, &c. . . . . for the space of six hours, and during that time did, by the discharge of firearms, ... greatly disturb the public peace, and terrify and alarm and disturb Her Majesty's subjects, ... and during that time the said Joseph Rayner Stephens did, by divers seditious, inflammatory, and unlawful speeches, endeavour to inflame and excite the said other persons so assembled, to make insurrections, riots, tumults, and breaches of the peace, ... and to arm themselves and to disturb the public peace and tranquility of this realm and violation of the laws, good order, and government of the realm, and against the peace of our said Lady the Queen, her crown, dignity, etc, etc. . . . . .

In 1838 the Working Men's Institute, at Hyde, was opened, with what has been described as a "three days' fête." On Sunday, the 9th of September, 1838, two sermons were delivered by the Rev. J. Rayner Stephens; on the Monday all the Chartists and secret orders congregated in procession, and on Tuesday three lectures were given by a Mr. Owen, of New Lanark. The Working Men's Institute was the building now used as St. Thomas' School. It was described in a prospectus of the time as "being the first building of the kind ever erected in this part of the country, and will very likely do much towards softening and wearing down the sharp edges of petty differences and prejudices that have hitherto too commonly characterized the people of this and every other district." But these laudable prospects were not to be realised, for meetings of a most inflammatory nature were long held in the institute, when those who assembled there were armed with firearms, swords, and pikes, to show the determined nature of their feeling. Arming, indeed, became general about this time, and the newspapers record that hawkers of firearms found a ready sale and willing purchasers for their goods.

This martial attitude of the people was evidently the outcome of a determination to effect a social revolution, and either to secure the five points of "The Peoples' Charter," or to fight for them. The notorious Richard Oastler, addressing a meeting in the Hyde Institute, said, "he had sent a *dagger* to Lord John Russell, as a last argument against the new Poor Law—the only argument now of every true patriot against all traitors to the throne, to the constitution and to the cottage, whether these traitors were seated in high places or in the lowest seats of the devil's temple. He had requested Lord John Russell to show that

dagger to Her Majesty's Ministers, and to the people s representatives in the House of Commons, etc., etc. . . . . ."

The agitation caused considerable anxiety amongst tradespeople and others, and the Hyde Magistrates issued notices warning people not to take part in these unlawful gatherings, whilst special constables were summoned and sworn in.

This action of the local magistrates gave great umbrage to the Chartist leaders, and Hyde figured prominently through the remaining period of the Chartist activity. So keen was the excitement caused that the military were billeted in the town, and, as before mentioned, the principal charges at the trial of the Chartist leaders, referred to matters which occurred in Hyde.

It will be well to give here some particulars of the great Chartist trial, and a few of the circumstances that led up to it. Among the startling things that broke upon the people was the following :—

"DECLARATION BY THE CHARTISTS OF HYDE."

1. We want neither the division nor the destruction of any man's property, much less the life of any individual.

2. We want our rights as Englishmen, we want not the rights of others, neither will we consent that others should usurp ours.

3. We want a fair, just, and equal representation in Parliament, a free voice in making the laws by which we are governed.

4. We declare the present Property Parliament unfair, unjust, and unworthy the confidence of the British people. We do so because in our opinion its enactments have been notorious only for their partiality and cruelty.

5. We want no Poor Law Amendment Act, because it separates and destroys all family relations and connections, encourages vice, immorality, and licentiousness, and forbids us the management of our own parochial affairs.

6. We want every man, whether he be rich or poor, to have not only a vote at the elections, but likewise to be eligible as a candidate for any Borough or County.

"In short we want equal rights and equal laws. We want the Charter, the whole Charter, and nothing but the Charter; and therefore we call upon all who love liberty and justice to come forward and join us in our endeavour to obtain our right and nothing but our right."

The five points of the Charter were :—

1. Universal suffrage, giving every man a vote even as every man pays taxes.

2. Vote by ballot to protect the voter from undue influence.

3. Triennial parliaments to enable us to discharge at the end of every three years all unworthy members.

4. No property qualifications, that a wise, judicious, and talented man, though he be poor, may have a seat in Parliament.

5. Payment of members, because we consider that every man should be paid for his labour by his employers, giving them the right to his service.

In support of this Charter Stephens undoubtedly made use of some remarkable language. Speaking at Bury in 1838, he said : "I come from the guilty town. I am the representative of the outlawed people of Hyde and Ashton, and now the lists are prepared and the sword is drawn I throw away the scabbard, and in the teeth of the Government I declare that meetings by night are no more unlawful than meetings by day. A question arises, what kind of magistrates have the present Government been making and placing over our heads ? How happens it that the magistrates at Hyde—the lying magistrates of Hyde (to the reporters, "Put that down")— I have proclaimed them to be liars under their very teeth—How happens it that these magistrates at Hyde do not understand the law. . . . . ." Having referred to the meeting held at Hyde, which he declared was perfectly orderly, he spoke of the moderation of the people in not setting fire to a load of hay which stood near the house of one of the magistrates. The magistrate himself was standing near his own gate as the operatives' procession passed by. "If," went on the orator, "pistols, guns, or firearms had been let off in the direction in which the magistrates' head was, why ! that man would never have had it in his power to report lies of the people of Hyde."

The meeting in Hyde for which Stephens was tried took place by torchlight on the 14th November, 1838, and the following is a copy of the announcement :—

Millions arouse ye, and resolve to be free. The time is come when every man of sane mind and unstained by crime must have a voice in the choice of those who are to represent him in the Commons House of Parliament. At seven o'clock on Wednesday evening next, the 14th instant, there will be a public meeting, to take into consideration the propriety of adopting the national petition for the People's Charter. The following distinguished persons have promised to attend :—F. O'Connor, Esq., Mr.

J. R. Stephens, of Dukinfield, Mr. J. Taylor, of Rochdale, Messrs. Cobbet and Richardson, of Manchester, and other patriotic individuals. The procession to form at Newton Moor, and to proceed to the Working Men's Institution by torchlight, preceded by the Hatherlow Band, who have gratuitously tendered their services on the occasion.—HYDE, NOVEMBER 10th, 1838.

On the 22nd of the following April, a few days after the finding of a true bill against Stephens by the Grand Jury at Chester, a remarkable Chartist meeting was held at the Working Men's Institute in Hyde. John Bradley, clogger, of Manchester Road, was in the chair. This meeting also led to law proceedings, and Bradley and his colleague—a Dr. McDougal—were tried at the Chester Assizes before the case against Stephens was heard. The case against the prisoners stated that "A procession was formed on the day in question from Hyde, and, after going to Dukinfield and Ashton, returned to Hyde by torchlight. The room at the Working Men's Institute being too small, the meeting was held in the open air, Bradley being the chairman, and McDougal the principal orator. The latter, in the course of his speech, said:—"Bloodthirsty set of Whigs; I advise you men, women, and children of Hyde to get to arms and be ready for the great struggle." Isaac Bradshaw, one of the chief witnesses, stated: "At half-past seven on the 22nd of April, I saw a large number of persons at the Working Men's Institute; I think there were about 1,500; they had flags and music with them. On one of the flags was "Hyde Female Radical Association;" on other, "Vote by Ballot;" "Equal Laws" and "Equal Rights." They went to Newton. When the procession returned there were about 3,000 with two bands. On passing the magistrates' office I heard the procession groan. Bradley was chairman at the Institute. McDougal spoke, and said "He had been all over England to advocate the people's Charter; he had seen the officers of the army, and five out of seven would support them. He said the soldiers would not fire on them; he advised them to buy arms. Those who could not buy arms must buy lucifer matches. He said the Chartists of London would meet them any time at three days' notice"—the people then cried out "We are ready." McDougal further said—"There were 200,000 stands of arms in the Tower of London, and 30 able-bodied men might get possession of them. If one of their number should be cut down another would take it up." He concluded by shouting out, "To your tents, O Israel."

Both prisoners were found guilty ; McDougal being sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment and Bradley to eight months.

The trial of Stephens took place at Chester in the September of 1839. The charge mentioned in the indictment already given was dealt with by the Attorney General (Sir G. Campbell) who said that "the meeting in question was held at the Cotton Tree Inn, half way between Hyde and Dukinfield. The crowds met after dark with firearms, and flags and banners of a most violent and inflammatory character. On one was "Tyrants believe and tremble ;" on another, "Liberty or death ;" and there was a transparency with the one word "Blood." Others bore the legends "For children and wives we will war to the knife," and "He that hath no sword, let him sell his garments and buy one."

W. Manley, a witness, spoke to having seen a large assembly of people, armed, and carrying torches, march in procession to the Cotton Tree Inn, and then move on towards Hyde. He left them at Flowery Field, on the verge of Hyde ; they were then walking six abreast. At the Cotton Tree there were about 500 persons, but they were joined by 400 more from Newton. Joshua Pickford, cotton manufacturer, of Hyde, said "he went down that night between nine and ten to Shepley's Fields, near Hoviley Brow. A platform had been built and defendant was in the centre. Banners were planted in a half-circle round it ; there were 3,000 or 4,000 people within the half-circle, and many more outside it. Some torches were on the hustings and some within the banners. He heard Stephens speak. Stephens said, 'You need not be afraid of the soldiers, they will not act against you. The time has now gone by for petitioning ; the time has now come for acting. There should be no mistake there that night, for he should advise them to arm.' He said, 'You men, women, and you (to the children) my little powder-monkeys, you that mean to buy arms, put up your hands with me.' Stephens then put up his hand, and some hundreds put up theirs, and there was a great shouting and firing of arms. At half-past ten he (witness) went home ; he remained up till one o'clock, but went out at intervals from eleven to one. After twelve he heard music as if the meeting were dispersing. Stephens told them to 'procure guns, pistols, swords, or pikes, or anything that would tell sharper tales than their tongues.' His wife and children were much alarmed, and his wife sat up till all was quiet."

The other witnesses included Messrs. W. Tinker, Charles Howard, George Miller, Edward Hibbert, and Samuel Ashton, jun. Stephens addressed the jury for five and a half hours in defence, but in the end was sentenced to eighteen months' imprisonment, and bound over for five years, himself in £500, and two sureties in £250 each.

The Chartist agitations led to an exciting incident between two well-to-do Hyde gentlemen and the Magistrates' Clerk. The Howards, John, Charles, and Thomas, of Long Meadow Mills, had applied several times for the military to be called out, and special constables enrolled. When, after a great lapse of time, these steps were taken, the Howards were so disgusted at the delay that they refused the demand of Messrs. Chorlton and Hibbert, Clerks to the Justices, to supply them with the names of their workpeople who could be sworn in as constables. The consequence was that Charles and Thomas were themselves called upon to take the oath, and refused, believing it was done simply to annoy them. For this they were summoned and fined £5 each. Finally, a report was set out that the Howards had contributed to the Chartist funds, and this report was told by Mr. Chorlton to the Rev. H. Alkin, Incumbent of St. George's Church. Charles Howard, hearing of this, threatened to thrash Mr. Chorlton, and the latter accordingly issued a warrant, the case being tried before Captain Clarke and other magistrates on May 25th, 1839. Mr. Howard was ultimately bound over to keep the peace for six months, and to find bail, himself in £50, and two sureties for £25 each.

THE IRISH RISING.

One of the worst riots that Hyde had to face was the Irish row of 1841. This broke out one Sunday night in June, and assumed such a fearful aspect that it was found necessary on the following day to have the Riot Act read. That rather dangerous and unpleasant duty was discharged by Captain Hyde John Clarke, who, in the capacity of chief magistrate in Hyde, is said to have "exhibited such firmness, wisdom, and discretion as soon restored order and peace in the town, and won for himself the commendations of all parties throughout the country round." He was a fine old English gentleman was the captain, and we could do with a few of his like to-day.

It is worthy of note that the eternal Irish question was at the root of the rising. A lecture was announced on "The evils of the Legislative Union between England and Ireland," to be delivered on Thursday, June 17th, by an Irishman named Trainer, who had been a Chartist. The Chartists, however, for some reason, were in favour of the Union, and a large body attending the lecture interrupted the speaker, denouncing him as an enemy to the country. The Irish in the meeting swore to be avenged, and large bodies of them, then engaged in the construction of the M. S. & L. Railway, signalized the ending of the working week by marching the streets armed with picks, spades, pokers, sticks, and various other implements of warfare, shouting as they marched. "Hurrah! for the Repeal, and down with the —— English." So large did the numbers grow that they had control of the town for some time, indiscriminately assaulting every Englishman, woman, and child they met. Led by one Peter Callagan, they declared the Irish would govern Hyde. Windows were broken, doors burst open, and the place rang with the popular Roman Catholic refrain—"The Pope shall have his own again"—

The Pope shall have his own again;
The Pope shall have his own;
No lapse of years can bar his reign,
The Pope shall have his own.

Your kings are dead, your queen may die;
The Stuarts have lost their throne;
His reign extends from earth to sky,
The Pope shall have his own.

Thumb-screws and racks are in your tower,
You stole them all from Rome;
But you can ne'er evade his power,
The Pope shall have his own.

E'en Wellington must yield to fate,
His victories unknown;
But Rome retains her endless state,
The Pope shall have his own.

Where'er you live, where'er you die;
You're his, you're his alone;
The *mullum tempus* must apply,
The Pope shall have his own.

It was scarcely to be expected that the English portion of the community would submit to this high-handed way of dealing without some small measure of retaliation. The evening following

the outbreak a fierce attack was delivered on the Irish quarter where every house soon bore the marks of the enraged rioters. Not a habitation escaped the destruction of its furniture, every window was smashed to atoms, and the inmates themselves were driven to flight. The chase was continued until a late hour when the rioters, having scoured the neighbourhood, and driven the Irish from the town, marched back into Hyde singing, "Britons never shall be slaves." The authorities meanwhile had sent express for two troops of Hussars who were marched into Hyde to maintain the peace; and eventually the police placed 40 or more of the ringleaders before the County Bench. Ultimately under the protection of special constables the dispersed Irish returned, and having acknowledged their foolishness in leading up to riot were allowed to resume their usual occupation.

The newspapers of the time contain long accounts of this outbreak, and give descriptions of the appearance of the town immediately following. A report states, "The principal streets in which the riots occurred were Platt Street, Lewis Street, Clarendon Street, and Mottram Road. Yesterday we walked through these streets. There is scarcely the vestige of a window left, and many of the doors were completely demolished, and some of the houses almost gutted and the furniture destroyed." The same reports are loud in praise of Captain Clarke for his exertions to maintain law and order. "The gallant Captain was in bed when the police arrived at Hyde Hall to summon his assistance. He dressed, however, immediately, and marched into the very thick of the riot, endeavouring by his presence and voice to induce the rioters to return to their homes. For the next three days he was constantly on the scene, and principally through his exertions public peace was restored."

INDUSTRIAL AGITATIONS.

Other risings of no mean proportions, if scarcely so serious in their results, visited Hyde some years after the Irish Row of '41. Indeed, many anecdotes might be related concerning what went on in connection with the industrial disputes and other matters of the mid portion of the century—a collection of years which would seem to have had more than their share of agitation and stirring events. In the year 1848 occurred what is known as

"THE PLUG RIOT,"

a rising that affected Hyde in some degree. It received its name

from the fact that the agitators not possessing the power of attaining their ends by means of an organised union, as would be the case to-day, determined on effecting a stoppage of the mills for a month by drawing the plugs of the boilers, and thus bringing the machinery to a standstill. The rising had been brewing for some time, fermented by meetings of Chartists in Hyde, and fanned into flame by the repeated watchwords of the leaders, "Organize, organize, organize;" "arm, arm, arm." It finally attained a head on the 14th of August, 1848, when a band of men, armed with guns, pistols, swords, and pikes, marched through Hyde, at midnight, drawing the plugs of the boilers at the various mills. As they marched they struck up their favourite song:—

> Come all you factory toilers,
> And help to plug the boilers.
> We'll not be tools, we are not fools,
> Although we plug the boilers.

The objects of the march effected, the gang dispersed and returned to their homes, where most of them were arrested in the course of the month, and afterwards condemned to varying terms of imprisonment. Recently I had a conversation with an old Chartist who figured in this famous march, and who paid the penalty of his sins by suffering incarceration in Chester Castle. He laughed boisterously over the escapade, and rather proudly pointed to the fact that nearly all the principal items of the "charter" for which they fought have now become the law of the land. "We met," said he, "on the Saturday night at Godley Green. The proposal to "march" on the Monday following was made, and when the question was put from the platform as to who would join the march on Monday, thousands of hands were raised. It was somewhat disappointing to find only about eighteen persons there when Monday night came round. I was only 17 at the time and had had some difficulty in dodging out without my mother's knowledge. I carried a gun and called for a friend on the way—the one who had asked me to join. Afterwards he swore that he was in bed, and that I broke in his house, rushed upstairs, and threatened to blow out his brains if he did not march with us. That was a lie; I did no such thing. We marched to Apethorn factory (our number now swelled by operatives from Newton), and there we found the watchman had chained the door. One of our number fired a pistol underneath the door to frighten him, and finally we got in and drew the plug. We went about from

mill to mill until it got daylight. I was arrested at Hyde Wakes, and got nine months. The best part was that the man who drew all the plugs was sworn in as a special constable next day and got nothing, as the rest of us did not split. I had no more rioting after that. There are only two of us left now, the rest are all dead. We were told that night that there was to be a general armed rising throughout England, and that the Charter would be got before daylight; otherwise perhaps we should not have risen." And so the old Chartist went on.

There is a good story told by Mr. John Thornely, concerning the days when plug drawing was popular. A gang of roughs from Stalybridge approached Bayley Field Mill with the object of stopping the boiler, and called upon old Bill Callend, the watchman, to come out and let them in. Bill, however, was a tough old dog who had fought with the Iron Duke at Waterloo, he had ridden in many a death rush with the British Dragoons, and he feared neither man nor devil. Taking a piece of chalk, he drew a line before the watch-house door, and, drawing a pistol, invited the crowd to come on and be shot. The rioters (if they are still living) have not yet decided which man was to receive that bullet, and the Bayley Field Mill escaped.

After this "plug drawing" escapade there was an absence of riot for some time, but about the close of the "fifties" yet another wave of anger rolled over the little town, this time in the shape of an outburst of defiance on the part of the cotton operatives. A dispute had arisen over some question concerning work and wages, which culminated in an attack on the late John Alcock, Esq., as he was riding through the streets on horseback. Though serious enough, the attack was not altogether without its humorous aspect, as the well-known mill proprietor was surrounded by an army of angry women, who belaboured the sides of his steed with dinner and breakfast cans, and finally pulled horse and rider some distance backwards down Market Street. Mr. Alcock ultimately found refuge in the grounds of Mr. Thornely, at Greenfield House, which then stood on the site of the present Town Hall.

Yet another rising took place in the early "sixties," when an attempt was made by the advanced sections of the neighbouring districts to rouse to riot and disorder the more peaceably inclined citizens of Hyde. What was called the "Bread Riot" occurred,

when shop windows were broken, furniture destroyed, and for a short time the town was in the hands of the mob. The windows of Green's grocery shop, in Market Street, were broken, and an attempt made to seize the provisions, but special constables were summoned in a remarkably short time, and eventually the rioters were overcome. Many arrests were made, though for the most part the offenders were released. Some, however, paid the penalty of their offences by incarceration in the county jail.

Leaving this somewhat martial aspect of the mid portion of the present century and its incidents of riot and tumult, it is equally interesting to turn to the peaceful events of the life of bygone Hyde. First of exceptional consequence comes the Accession of the Queen. Hyde was at that time little more than a village, but there were not wanting many loyal subjects to make manifest their joy, and to welcome Victoria to the throne.

THE CORONATION FESTIVAL AT HYDE

was on a comparatively grand scale. A procession was formed opposite the Norfolk Arms at eleven o'clock in the morning. It was headed by the Constabulary constables, and the special constables of Hyde, Werneth, and Newton, and taken part in by the following loyal subjects of the Queen :—

Sunday School Scholars.
Band of Music.
Apparitor.
Churchwardens.
Committee of Management.
Gentlemen of the Neighbourhood.
Special High Constable on Horseback.
Band of Music.
Magistrates of the Division.
Gentlemen of the Neighbourhood in their Carriages.

After parading the township as far as the Grapes Inn, Gee Cross, then down Back Lane, through Newton and Flowery Field, the procession returned up Market Street, and assembled round the reservoirs that then covered one-half of the present Market area. From the foot of the old finger-post the Queen was proclaimed Sovereign Lady of the Realm by the High Constable, the proclamation being greeted with cheers and a fanfare of trumpets. A special Coronation Chant was sung, and

the assembly having dispersed the rest of the day was spent in festivities. A dinner was held in the Norfolk Arms, over which Mr. Thomas Ashton presided, and a splendid display of fireworks in the Market Place was given at ten p.m.

The chant sung on this occasion was as follows :—

She comes, she comes, the Queen of hearts,
In royal state and grand array,
Her presence new born joy imparts
Along that loyal crowded way.
Thousands on thousands mingle there,
And breathe as one the heartfelt prayer.

CHORUS :

God bless the Queen ! long live the Queen !
May peace and plenty crown her sway ;
Long may she reign, beloved serene,
As on her coronation day.

She comes, she comes, her people's boast,
Holding a throne in every heart,
Through all the land and round our coast,
Victoria's name bids care depart.
Each face a smile appears to wear,
While every heart responds the prayer :
God bless the Queen, etc.

She comes, she comes, like radiant truth,
Fair to behold, as costliest gem ;
In mind a matron, though in youth
She comes to take a diadem.
Nobles and prelates greet her there,
While rank and beauty join the prayer :
God bless the Queen, etc.

Another pleasing incident of "primitive Hyde," which is calculated to show the old style village character of the town at that period, was connected with

THE ST. GEORGE'S PEAL OF BELLS.

The bringing to their home of the new peal of bells that had been cast for the tower of St. George's was an event which may be dealt with in an entirely unsectarian spirit, because in the times when it occurred it was looked on as a matter affecting and interesting the whole town.

The bells were brought through the town on a lorry from the printworks belonging to Mr. Antrobus, and were accompanied on

their journey by a procession headed by bands of music. The event created so much interest and was considered so important as to cause one local poet to publish an effusion commemorating it, which was widely circulated with a prose description of the fête in pamphlet form.

The times have changed since then, and the arrival of a peal of bells in our midst to-day would probably awaken no more enthusiasm than a mere curiosity on the part of the bulk of the community. The difference in this marks to a certain degree the different characteristics of the two generations—past and present.

CHAPTER V.

RECORDS OF MUNICIPAL HYDE.

NE of the earliest events to which "The Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Hyde" lent the dignity of their presence "in state" was the

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE TOWN HALL.

This important function took place on Saturday, June 30th, 1883, when, in the presence of a large and enthusiastic assembly and in beautiful weather, Mr. Thomas Ashton (then Mayor), discharged the principal duties of the ceremony. The event was hailed as a red-letter incident in the affairs of Hyde, and the actual laying of the stone was preceded by a procession in which bands of music, the various friendly societies, the Sunday schools, the members of the Corporation, and other representative bodies took part. Practically all Hyde turned out to assist in the demonstration and the town presented a lively appearance. The streets were thronged with people, every business place displayed flags and bannerets, and the front of the platform where the main event of the day was enacted, was lavishly decorated with over 500 flags and streamers of every conceivable hue. The various public bodies taking part in the procession, amounting altogether to some 3,000 people, assembled in Crook's Square, off Union Street, at 3 o'clock. The procession was led by the Borough Band and the Hyde Corps of the 4th Cheshire Rifle Volunteers. The Mayor, who wore his gold chain and badge, brought up the rear. At the principal scene of operations the Mayor was presented, by Mr. Alderman John Thornely on behalf of the Town Council, with a handsome silver trowel, with which his Worship proceeded to lay the memorial stone. Before finally

adjusting the stone the Mayor placed in the cavity underneath it, a tin box containing a copy of the Charter, an abstract of the accounts for the previous year, a list of the Councillors and officers of the borough, copies of the local newspapers, and a few of the current coins of the realm. The conclusion of the ceremony was marked by the firing of cannon at the back of the platform and the playing of the Hallelujah Chorus by the united bands.

In due course the laying of the foundation stone was followed by the formal

OPENING OF THE TOWN HALL.

This ceremony was described by the newspapers as "the most gorgeous pageant that the town had ever witnessed. Not even the oldest inhabitant could call to mind a ceremony of such magnitude, calling together in one mass so vast a concourse of people."

The new municipal buildings were formally opened for the transaction of public business on Saturday, June 27th, 1885. For some weeks previous to the opening, the Town Council had been making preparations for a demonstration upon a scale worthy of so important an event. The efforts put forth resulted in a procession which more than trebled anything of its kind before in point of numbers. It was comprised of the following:—

Fourth Cheshire Rifle Volunteers	100
Hyde and Ashton Fire Brigades	20
Primitive Methodists, Hyde	420
New Connexion School, Hyde	320
Grand United Order of Oddfellows	350
St. George's Church Sunday School	775
St. Thomas' Church Sunday School, and St. Andrew's	738
Hyde Independent Sick and Funeral Society	100
Zion Congregational Sunday School	440
Flowery Field Sunday School	290
Independent Order of Oddfellows	350
Baptist Sunday School	120
Rosemount Sunday School	340
Union Street Sunday School	431
Ancient Order of Foresters	454
Hyde Chapel Sunday School	230

Wesleyan (Newton) Sunday School	218
National and United Free Gardeners	672
St. Mary's and St. Stephen's	400
St. Paul's, Roman Catholic	400
Wesleyan (Hyde) Sunday School	274
Methodist Free Church Sunday School	207
Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds	399
Newton New Connexion	127
Trades Council, Freemasons, Gentlemen of the Borough, Town Council and Officers	200

There were, however, considerable additions to these numbers and as eight bands also took part in the march, it was computed that at least 10,000 persons joined in the popular demonstration. A sum of £250 was subscribed to meet the expenses, and out of this sum the Corporation were enabled to present each child with 6d. towards a treat in commemoration of the event, whilst 6,000 medals were struck, containing on one side an admirable representation of the Town Hall, and on the reverse, this inscription, "In commemoration of the opening of the Hyde Town Hall by the Mayor, Edward Hibbert, Esq., June 27th, 1885." Prizes were offered by the Weavers' Association for the "handsomest print dresses worn in the procession," and various other inducements to contribute to the successful issue of the proceedings were held out.

The decorations were on a most elaborate and extensive scale. Venetian masts, flags and streamers without number, made the reserved square in front of the building gay with colour and the tradesmen and others throughout the town decorated the streets with bunting, floral designs, and mottoes. At least 20,000 people from the surrounding towns and villages poured into Hyde to witness to opening ceremony.

The processionists met in Crook's Square, whence they marched through the borough in the order above given. The Sunday Schools were headed by their banners, and the various members of the secret orders were resplendent in their regalia, whilst some of the orders were further represented by "tableaux" of an attractive kind. The Foresters were headed by members in costume as "Robin Hood" and "Little John," with various attendants in Lincoln green, bearing the old style "English bow of yew." The Shepherds, too, were represented by emblems of their craft.

In the rear of the procession marched the Corporation, represented on this occasion by the following Councillors and Aldermen in their respective places :—

TOWN COUNCILLORS.

NEWTON WARD.

J. Broadbent.	E. Hollingworth.	H. Booth.
J. Alcock.	J. Hall.	W. Chatterton.

GODLEY WARD.

T. Shepley.	G. Brownson.	A. Haughton.
J. Higginbotham.	E. Shaw.	F. Drinkwater.

WERNETH WARD.

W. Hibbert.	R. Hibbert.	H. Barlow.
J. Mycock.	J. Higginbotham.	J. Oldham.

Aldermen Cheetham, T. Thornely, J. Thornely, C. Swindells.

The route, which was most lengthy, extended from Crook's Square, down Foundry Street, Market Place, Market Street, Newton Street, Flowery Field, Bennett Street, to Cheshire Cheese, Ashton Road, Commercial Brow, Commercial Street, up Cheapside, Lumn Street, Back Lane, to Clarke's Arms, Hyde Lane, to Town Hall. It was found that the procession itself was of such magnitude that the last files were only just leaving the front of the Town Hall, when the head of the procession had arrived at the foot of Commercial Brow.

At the conclusion of the walk the whole body of processionists and sightseers were massed in front of the Town Hall. Here a handsome presentation key was handed to the Mayor by Mr. Thomas Ashton. The key contained the following inscription :—"This key was presented to Edward Hibbert, Esq., Mayor, at the opening of the Hyde Town Hall, June 27th, 1885."

The Mayor, having unlocked the door, entered the building, and in a few moments re-appeared upon the balcony in front, from which he addressed the crowd. After several speeches had been delivered the great concourse of people united in singing the "Old Hundredth," with which the day's proceedings (as far as the general public were concerned) terminated. A luncheon was given by the Mayor, in the Town Hall, during the evening, at which most of the local notabilities were present.

The rejoicings and excitement, however, did not die down until a late hour, and the streets continued to be thronged with

people. Ballad mongers, with specially composed and printed ballads, did a roaring trade, singing their wares to the accompaniment of the banjo and other minstrel instruments. The chorus of one of these ballads ran thus, and was not altogether an inappropriate description of the occasion :—

Flags and banners gaily fly—
Shout, boys, hurrah !
Young and old for miles around
They're here to-day.
To join the grand procession,
And in the ranks to fall,
To march away to the opening
Of the Hyde Town Hall.

The Town Hall has been used principally for municipal offices, because there is as yet no public room attached. The largest room in the building is the Council chamber of our

LOCAL PARLIAMENT.

Here battles have been fought, and victories lost and won in a manner worthy the liveliest traditions of an imperial assembly. Indeed, the Hyde Town Council has become notorious throughout England for the stirring, stubborn fashion in which its questions are debated. Probably no other public body in the country has been so keenly divided upon the questions laid before it for discussion, or has created so sharp an interest in its meetings among the inhabitants at large. In Hyde the Council meetings are, and have been, well attended, and the space set apart for the convenience of the general public has frequently been found insufficient. The debates have been followed with interest from start to finish, and exciting contests they have proved. Scenes have occurred more than once or twice, and the lively antics usually attributed to the Irish section of the Commons House of Parliament have had their rivals in the actions of our local statesmen. Perhaps political animus has been carried too far in these wordy combats, and has imparted a bitterness which public deliberations ought to lack. The earlier Councils were mostly of one political caste, and their proceedings passed on the peaceful lines of family party gatherings. As the political sections grew more equal in the chamber, the keenness of the contests grew apace, and sittings of four and even five hours have been known. A keen and prolonged struggle took place in 1892 on the question of the advance of the surveyor's salary by £1 per week. A

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meeting of ratepayers had been held some time previous and had decided against the increase. Backed up by this expression of the public voice, one section of the Council assailed the proposal with determined vigour, while the rival force defended the advance with equal zeal. The debate was listened to by a large assembly of the public who much enjoyed the hard hitting indulged in by the orators.

The principal bone of contention, however, in the earlier years of municipal history was the question of the consecration of the Public Cemetery. The Liberals opposed the consecration and the Unionists upheld it, and time after time the question was fought in the local forum with a degree of energy (and it is to be feared bitter feeling) that could not have been equalled if a kingdom had been at stake. The fight on this question continued for years, and only terminated after a memorable debate in 1896, when a Conservative majority being in power the Act of Consecration was passed.

Most of these contests, however bitter the fighting might have been, ended amicably between the contestants. Some, however, were very severe in character, and the unlucky individual who then held the position of Mayor had a hot time in endeavouring to pacify the contending factions. The Mayor's ruling was frequently challenged, and on one occasion, during the mayoralty of Mr. John Oldham, the excitement attained to such a pitch that His Worship found it necessary to leave the chair and close the meeting.

The pugnacious nature of the Hyde Town Councillors has, however, been carried a step beyond this, and such was the nature of the language used in one debate that the discussion ended in blows of a sterner nature, and an action-at-law was the result.

Other exciting incidents have occurred. The second year of office of Mr. Alderman Turner was initiated by a remarkable special meeting summoned by the Mayor for the purpose of condemning, through the medium of the Corporation, a criticism of certain political actions of the Mayor, by the *North Cheshire Herald*. The legality of this meeting was challenged by the Unionists, who absented themselves in a body from the Council,

deputing one of their members to attend and announce the cause of their absence and then to withdraw. The unique spectacle of the orators of one political section having the debate to themselves was then presented, and a long afternoon was taken up in speeches defensive of the action of the Mayor.

No doubt when time has mellowed down the bitterness of these local parliamentary battles, the townspeople of the future will enjoy many a laugh and quibble over the doughty deeds of the fathers of municipal life in Hyde.

There have been other events of a pleasant and satisfactory nature in the course of Hyde's short municipal history, though time and circumstances have not contributed much of the romantic element. It cannot be said that the Town of Hyde excited itself very much over the two Jubilees of the Queen. The event of 1887 was commemorated by the erection of the Public Baths, whilst on the occasion of the more recent Diamond Jubilee, a gathering of Sunday school scholars and townsfolk took place before the Town Hall in the morning, when hymns were sung, and the volunteer force fired a "feu de joie."

Beyond these and the Consecration of the Cemetery, when the Mayor entertained the Lord Bishop of Chester in the Town Hall, and the annual Mayoral procession to church or chapel, the state appearances of the Corporation have been few, and the municipal records are of the everyday, ordinary circumstances of local public life.

The latest event of note was the opening of the new Technical School, on February 18th, 1899, by Mrs. W. M. Ashton, of Heyscroft, Didsbury.

Apart from matters officially connected with the Corporation, the most striking occurrence since the formation of the borough, was the

THE DREADFUL COLLIERY DISASTER

at the Hyde Pits of Messrs. Sidebotham, on January 15th, 1889, when 25 persons lost their lives. The explosion occurred on a Friday, and most inhabitants will remember the awful feeling of suspense and of dismay when the news became general

in the town. The scene by night of the coffins carried from the colliery gates to the various habitations of the victims will not so readily be forgotten, nor will the sad Tuesday afternoon which followed, when so many of the dead were laid to rest in St. George's Churchyard. On the Sunday succeeding the interment, special services were held in St. George's Church, and a procession of mourners, among them Mr. J. W. Sidebotham, M.P., attended. A relief fund for the sufferers by this disaster was started by the Mayor, and some thousands of pounds were speedily realized and were invested for the benefit of the widows and families of the victims.

A brief sketch is here appended of the careers of the Mayors of Hyde.

The life of Mr. Thomas Ashton, the first Mayor of the Borough is dealt with in another chapter.

EDWARD HIBBERT, ESQ., J.P.

Edward Hibbert, Esq., J.P., second Mayor of Hyde, and for many years its senior alderman, is a member of one of the oldest of our local families. The Hibberts have played a great part in Hyde's industrial and political history, and were among the founders of the cotton trade in Hyde and its neighbourhood. Prior to their commencement in the cotton business they seem to have been tenants by life leases of the estates in Godley which in later times became their own. With the increase of the cotton industry, the influence and local standing of the family was largely extended. Mr. Randal Hibbert played a prominent part in public matters in the earlier years of the century, and since his time most of the members of the Hibbert family have been connected with some public office or other. Mr. Edward Hibbert is perhaps the most prominent of the later generation of Hibberts, and for many years he has taken an active part in local affairs. He figured in the days of the old Local Board, and on the Incorporation of the Borough was returned at the head of the poll for Godley Ward. He was one of the first aldermen of the borough, and continued to hold his place upon the Council until failing health compelled him to resign in 1897. On the conclusion of the mayoralty of Mr. Thomas Ashton, Mr. Edward Hibbert was elected as mayor, and this position he held for two years. During his term of office he performed the opening ceremony at

the new Town Hall. His work on the various committees of the Corporation has been of great benefit to the town. Mr. Hibbert is a magistrate for the Borough of Hyde and the County of Chester.

JOHN CHEETHAM, ESQ., J.P.

Mr. John Cheetham, J.P., third Mayor of Hyde, was a native of Gatley, a well-known Cheshire village, which he left at an early age to become apprenticed to a grocer in Hyde. He was essentially a self-made man, commencing business for himself in a humble way as a grocer and butcher in 1846. In 1870 he embarked in the hatting trade, increasing his business by constant tact and industry until at the present time the firm of John Cheetham and Sons is one of the largest of its kind in the district. Mr. Cheetham was one of the earliest members of the old Local Board, and his public labours were continued through his life. He was one of the first councillors of the borough, one of its aldermen in 1885, and twice its mayor; was a county magistrate, and for some years overseer of the poor and poor-law guardian.

JOSEPH MYCOCK, ESQ., J.P.

Mr. Joseph Mycock has long been known as one of the leading tradesmen of Hyde. For many years he carried on a drapery business in Market Place, and only recently disposed of the concern. He is one of the "city fathers," and was connected with the first forms of local government in Hyde. He served with credit on the Local Board, and was one of the earliest representatives of Werneth Ward on the Town Council. He succeeded Mr. John Cheetham in the office of mayor, but only held the position for one year. Mr. Mycock has been long and actively connected with the Congregationalist body, and has been one of the most energetic Sunday school workers in connection with Zion Chapel. Though not one of the first aldermen of the borough, on the occurrence of a vacancy he was deservedly elevated to the aldermanic bench. His name has since been added to the list of borough magistrates.

PETER GREEN, ESQ., J.P., C.A.

Mr. Peter Green, the fifth mayor, was born at Sheffield in humble circumstances, in 1828. The following year his parents migrated to Newton, where at the early age of seven Mr. Green

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commenced to work at his father's trade, that of a slater and plasterer. After two years at this occupation, owing to the stagnation of trade, Mr. Green laboured for a time in Long Meadow Mill. In 1850 he married a Miss Jones, of Didsbury, and two years later commenced business on his own account as a contractor. By perseverance and energy this business was largely developed, and among other local buildings erected by his firm were Throstle Bank Mill, Newton Moor Spinning Company's Mill, Flowery Field Unitarian Church, Holy Trinity Church, Gee Cross, The Hyde Reform Club, and portions of St. Mary's, Haughton Dale, and St. Anne's Church, Haughton. In 1873, Mr. Green became a member of the Hyde Local Board, and was returned in 1881 to the Town Council. He was defeated in 1884, and again in 1885, but in 1886 he secured a seat upon the Council. Two years later he was made an alderman, and thrice held the office of mayor (for the years 1888-9-90). He was returned for Godley Ward to the Cheshire County Council in 1889, and on his defeat at the election of 1892 was made a county alderman. Upon his term of office as alderman for Hyde Borough expiring, he was not re-elected, but was returned as a councillor for Werneth Ward. Mr. Green was the Mayor of Hyde at the time of the colliery explosion, and was first president of the Mayor of Hyde's Relief Fund. He was a magistrate for the Borough of Hyde and the County of Chester. He died in 1897. After the death of his widow in 1899 it was found that Mr. and Mrs. Green had left a sum of about £10,000 to be devoted to the educational and social advancement of the people of Hyde.

JOSEPH WILD, ESQ.

Mr. Joseph Wild succeeded Mr. Peter Green as the sixth Mayor of Hyde in 1891. Like most of his predecessors in the office Mr. Wild was a well-known local worthy and for many years carried on a successful business as a chemist and druggist in Clarendon Place. He has now retired from business, but is largely interested in the Hyde Gas Company. Mr. Wild was connected with the earlier forms of local government in Hyde and for years has taken a prominent position in the management of the town's affairs. As a public servant his career has been honourable and useful, and he has also been connected with church and Sunday school work in the Wesleyan body. He was one of the first councillors elected for the Borough of Hyde,

being returned for Godley Ward, and in 1892 was elevated to the aldermanic bench. He was Mayor of the Borough in the years 1891 and 1892, but on the expiration of his term of office as alderman in 1895 he failed to secure re-election. Since then he has, unfortunately, taken no part in municipal matters.

JOHN OLDHAM, ESQ.

Mr. John Oldham has probably been the most popular Mayor Hyde has had. He is a self made man, who, beginning his career as a blacksmith, subsequently entered in the hatting industry, and has developed his business until his firm is one of the largest of its class in the borough. Mr. Oldham was first returned to the Council in May, 1881, and with the exception of three years following his defeat in 1884, continued to represent that ward until 1896. Whilst still a councillor, he succeeded Mr. Joseph Wild as mayor in 1893, holding the highest civic position for two years. His term of office was marked by the active and continuous social work of the mayor and mayoress (Mrs. Oldham), whose efforts on behalf of various charities and public societies were most praiseworthy and beneficial. Through the instrumentality of Mrs. Oldham, large demonstrations were held on behalf of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and other deserving causes received stimulus and support. The mayor and mayoress were among the large list of civic dignitaries invited by the Manchester Corporation to receive the Queen on her visit to that city on the occasion of the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal. Mr. John Oldham was elevated to the aldermanic dignity in 1896.

HENRY GOODIER TURNER, ESQ.

Mr. Alderman Henry Goodier Turner, of the Goodiers, Newton, is the last representative of one of the oldest local families. His ancestors have for generations been connected with the township of Godley and Newton. Mr. Turner is by profession a solicitor, and for years carried on a practice in Hyde and at Manchester. He greatly distinguished himself in the conduct of the notorious "Whalley Will Case" some years ago, and for his services in this case was presented with handsome testimonials to his ability, by several public bodies. He has now retired from active practice of his profession. Mr. Turner first entered the Council for Newton Ward in 1885, and continued to

represent that ward until his elevation to the aldermanic bench, in 1895. In the latter year he was raised to the position of mayor, and held the office for two years. He has several times contested the County Council elections but hitherto unsuccessfully. He attended the ceremonies in London on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of the Queen.

EDMUND WILD SMITH, ESQ.

Mr. Edmund Wild Smith is a native of Gee Cross, being the youngest son of the late Josiah Smith. Many years ago he started business on a small scale in the village of Gee Cross, but in the early seventies he along with his brother, Mr. John Smith, J.P., commenced a wholesale boot and shoe business in Manchester. This business has been raised by the energy of the Smith brothers to one of huge proportions, and their firm has now transactions far and wide. Mr. Edmund W. Smith successfully contested Werneth Ward at the November election in 1891, and sat for that ward on the Hyde Town Council for seven years. On the expiration of the term of office of Mr. Henry Goodier Turner, Mr. Smith was selected as the ninth Mayor of Hyde, and is the present occupant of the chief magisterial office. He was promoted to the dignity of alderman in the November of 1898. Mr. Smith has on several occasions been pressed to contest seats on the Manchester City Council.

CHAPTER VI.

THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF HYDE.

HE political history of Hyde dates somewhat further back than its municipal record. Hyde originally figured as an ordinary portion of the County of Chester, which in old days was represented by scions of many famous families. Among others of local note who in early times represented Cheshire were Col. Dukinfield of Dukinfield Hall, Henry Bradshaw of Marple Hall, and several of the Leghs of Lyme. But it was not until after the passing of the Reform Bill of the early thirties that Hyde itself figured at all prominently in political affairs. As early as 1829 there were political associations existing, but some idea of the limited nature of their operations may be gathered when it is stated that before the first Reform Bill there were not a score of electors in the township. Moreover, in those days there was no polling station for the township of Hyde, and the poll for this district was taken at Mottram.

About the year 1838, the question of Hyde being made into a polling place came before the grand jury at Chester assizes, when Mr. Thomas Ashton presented a petition from 363 freeholders, praying "that Hyde might be appointed as an additional polling place in the district of Stockport."

Mr. John Howard seconded the petition, and said "it was right and proper that the excitement of a general election, which would be caused by so many freeholders assembling at one point, should be avoided."

The motion, however, was opposed by a Mr. R. Simpson, who held a petition from freeholders in the different townships, "praying that any additional place should be fixed at Mottram." It was stated that Mottram was "more central than Hyde, and better fitted in all respects."

Mr. Simpson was supported in his opposition by Captain Hyde John Clarke, who said "he could foresee nothing but riots among the workmen of Hyde, who at present were orderly and well behaved. He did not wish the excitement of an election amongst them, and he should consider the appointment of Hyde as a polling place the greatest nuisance they could create."

Captain Tollemache, who also supported Mottram, said, "many persons had told him they would rather have no removal at all than a removal to Hyde," and Major Tomkinson remarked that "Mottram was a very nice place for grouse, though he did not know much as to its qualification for a polling place." Ultimately the motion was lost, as the majority of the court were evidently in favour of Mottram; and Hyde had to suffer disappointment.

For some time after the great Reform Bill, Hyde figured with its neighbourings townships in the large Parliamentary Division of North Cheshire—a designation from which such names as the *North Cheshire Herald* are derived.

The Northern Division of Cheshire first returned its own members in 1832, in which year the Conservatives brought forward Mr. William Tatton Egerton, of Tatton. This gentleman was the eldest son of Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, who had represented Cheshire for 19 years, prior to the Reform Measure. He was opposed on the part of the Whigs by Mr. Edward John Stanley, eldest son of Sir John Stanley, Bart., of Alderley, and by Admiral Tollemache, who figured as an advanced Radical. The election, which was keenly contested, resulted as under:—

Egerton (C).....	2063
Stanley (W)	1965
Tollemache (R).....	1089

and Messrs. W. Tatton Egerton and Edward John Stanley were declared elected.

At the elections of 1835 and 1837, the same two gentlemen were returned unopposed, but in 1841 the Tories determined to run two men, and George Cornwall Legh, Esq., of High Leigh, was nominated along with the retiring Tory member W. T. Egerton. In those days the colours of the Conservatives were red, and those of the Liberals blue—the exact reverse of things to-day. The hustings were at Knutsford, and a lively time was experienced throughout the contest of 1841. Ultimately the final declaration of the poll showed—

Egerton (C)	2736
Legh (C)	2611
Stanley (W)	2185

and for the next six years Messrs. W. T. Egerton and Cornwall Legh sat for the division.

In 1847, when the next general election took place, there seemed signs of a four-handed contest, as the two retiring Conservative members were opposed by Messrs. Stanley, and Francis Dukinfield Palmer Astley, of Dukinfield. Eventually however, Messrs. Legh and Astley retired, and as a compromise, Mr. W. Tatton Egerton (Tory), and Mr. E. J. Stanley (Whig) were returned unopposed.

Mr. Stanley (soon to become the 2nd Lord Stanley, of Alderley), was in 1848 raised to the peerage (during his father's lifetime) as Baron Eddisbury, and a bye-election resulted. Mr. Cornwall Legh again came out in the Tory interest, and was opposed by Mr. Astley, who had retired in the previous year. The contest of 1848 is still remembered by the older inhabitants of Hyde, and many humorous stories are told of the oratory of the local squire who addressed the electors from the top of a flight of steps at the back of the Queen's Hotel, then known as the Pine Apple Inn. His appearance on the hustings was a lively matter, and the reports of the proceedings in the newspapers of the day do ample justice to the interruptions and the witticisms of the crowd. The Hyde section of the electors are particularly singled out as a riotous assembly of individuals, indeed the papers speak of them as "queer looking animals, decked out in paper hats." The contest ended in a decisive Tory victory.

Cornwall Legh (C)	3060
F. D. P. Astley (L)	2419
Majority	641

After this decision of the electorate the Tories held the seat undisturbed until the new franchise and distribution of seats put an end to the existence of the division. At the elections of 1852 and 1857, Messrs. W. Tatton Egerton and Geo. Cornwall Legh were returned, but in 1858 Mr. Egerton retired and was succeeded by his son, Mr. Wilbraham Egerton (the present Lord Egerton of Tatton). In April, 1859, Mr. Egerton, senior, was raised to peerage as Baron Egerton of Tatton, and a few weeks later his son, the Hon. Wilbraham Egerton and Mr. George Cornwall Legh were returned unopposed. The same two gentlemen were again returned without contest at the general election of 1865, the last election in the old division of North Cheshire.

In 1868 the Parliamentary division of east Cheshire came into being, and the candidates for the Tories were Colonel William John Legh of Lyme, and Mr. Edward Christopher Egerton, brother of the 1st Lord Egerton of Tatton. The Liberals put forward Messrs. Joddrell and Cheetham, but these gentlemen were withdrawn at the last moment, and Messrs. Egerton and Legh were returned. The following year (1869) Mr. Egerton died suddenly, and the Conservatives brought out Mr.—now Sir William—Cunliffe Brooks to contest the vacancy. This gentlemen was opposed on the part of the Liberals by Sir Edward Watkin, "the Railway King." The contest was conducted in the good old English style that prevailed before the ballot. Both candidates were wealthy, and both spent money like water. The hustings were then at Macclesfield, and large crowds from Hyde journeyed thither to hear the nominations. Watkin had been previously beaten at Yarmouth, and the Conservative section filled Macclesfield with strings of Yarmouth bloaters, which, before the end of the proceedings, became converted into missiles. The Liberals resorted to the use of rotten eggs, and the Tory candidate became the target for their marksmen. One egg just missed Sir William's head, and took sad effect on the dress of Miss Turner, Godley, who happened to be present. This incident is still well remembered, as is also the grace with which Sir William Brooks presented the lady with a splendid new robe of silk, to replace the damaged dress. Eventually the Tories won by a large majority.

Brooks (C)	2879
Watkin (L)	1814
Majority	1065

The election caused great excitement throughout the county, the national press took it up, and the contest was cartooned in the pages of *Punch*.

After the above election there was no attempt made to unseat the Tory members until the year 1880, when the Liberals brought forward Messrs. Bazley and Baley-Worthington. A lively time then resulted, and the contest was carried on with great spirit on both sides. The grim humour of election competition had not then departed from such incidents, and it frequently happened that the Liberal posters exhibited in the evening were covered with Tory "squibs" when the morning light appeared. The law of *vice versa*, of course, prevailed, and a regular warfare of "brush and paste" was the result. The upshot, however, was another victory for Messrs. Legh and Brooks, who afterwards held the seat during the remainder of the existence of the East Cheshire Division.

Brooks (C)	3424
Legh (C)	3310
Worthington (L)	2032
Bazley (L)	1947

HYDE PARLIAMENTARY DIVISION.

In 1885 the first contest took place for the newly-formed Cheshire Parliamentary Division of Hyde. The candidates were Colonel Legh of Lyme, Conservative, and Mr. Thomas Gair Ashton, Liberal; and the result was a decided Liberal victory. The polling resulted as under :—

Ashton (L)	4546
Legh (C)	3990
Majority	556

In less than a year, owing to the defeat of Mr. Gladstone's "Home Rule Bill," a second contest took place in the Hyde Division, and Colonel Legh having now retired from the arena, Mr. J. W. Sidebotham represented the Conservatives, and contested the seat with Mr. Ashton. The result gave the Unionists a substantial victory.

Sidebotham (C)	4328
Ashton (L)	3885
Majority	443

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The above election was followed by six years' quietness during the life of Lord Salisbury's long administration, but in 1892 the same candidates were again in the field, and a stubborn fight resulted. Every effort was made by both parties, and among the notabilities brought down for platform purposes during the contest was Mr. H. M. Stanley, the famous explorer, who addressed Tory meetings at the Theatre and in St. Thomas' School. The utmost excitement prevailed, as it was thought by some that the time which had elapsed since the split on the Irish question might have changed the opinions of the Liberal Unionist section, and thus serve to oust the Tory member. The result of the polling (declared to an immense assembly from the Town Hall balcony) was a decided majority for Mr. Sidebotham, and with this contest Mr. Ashton retired from the fray.

Sidebotham (C)	4525
Ashton (L)	4220
Majority.....	305

Three years later, on the defeat of Lord Rosebery's administration, Mr. Sidebotham was opposed on the part of the Liberals by Mr. George Wood Rhodes, of Hollingworth, and by Mr. Geo. Christie, Labour representative, of Nottingham. A lengthy and stern combat ended with the combatants in the following positions :—

Sidebotham (C).....	4735
Rhodes (L)	3844
Christie (ILP)	448

A peculiar coincidence of these numbers was that the majority of Mr. Sidebotham over both his opponents was exactly equal to his first majority over Mr. Ashton. This election, as will be seen, brings the results of Parliamentary contests up to date.

Political feeling has been keenly introduced into those other election contests which savour more of the domestic character. The County Council and the Municipal and Guardian elections have been sharply fought, but it is questionable whether the same party loyalty has always been observed in these contests. A glance at the results appended will show a constant change of front in the feeling of the burgesses.

COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

The Local Government Bill of the Conservative Government created County Councils in 1888, and the first election took place in that year. The first County Council election was a walk over for the Liberal party, their three candidates Messrs. William Mark Ashton, Peter Green, and George Brownson being returned unopposed. In 1892, however, all three seats were contested with the following result :—

NEWTON WARD.		GODLEY WARD.	
W. M. Ashton (L)	810	E. F. Cowley (C).....	789
H. G. Turner (C)	784	Peter Green (L)	731

WERNETH WARD.

Brownson (L)	644
Dr. Griffiths (Indepen.)...	419

Mr. George Brownson dying in 1894, the bye-election was contested in Werneth Ward with the result as under :—

D. Stafford.....	730
J. W. D. Barron	655

The results in 1895 were :—

NEWTON WARD.		GODLEY WARD.	
W. M. Ashton (L).....	897	E. F. Cowley (C).....	706
H. G. Turner (C)	788	G. Brownson (L)	675

WERNETH WARD—D. Stafford, unopposed.

Mr. Mark Ashton died the same year, and a bye-election was fought for Newton Ward in June.

T. G. Ashton (L)	1038
H. G. Turner (C)	746

In December, 1896, a bye-election occurred in Godley with the following result :—

John William Duncan Barron (C)	972
George Brownson (L)	882

The general contest in 1898 was a compromise, Messrs. T. G. Ashton, J. W. D. Barron, and D. Stafford, retaining their seats without opposition.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

NEWTON WARD.

April, **1881.**

Successful Candidates.		Unsuccessful Candidates.	
Thomas Ashton (L)	977	E. Hollingworth (C)	794
Peter Green (L)	920	F. W. Ashton (L)	784
John Thornely (L)	878	J. Macnab (L)	772
Wm. Fidler (L)	868	W. Tetlow (C)	770
H. Booth (C)	798	Jos. Hall (C)	749
W. Chatterton (C)	795	T. Marler (C)	739

May, **1881.**

E. Hollingworth (C)	965	F. W. Ashton (L)	843
Jos. Hall (C)	950	J. Macnab (L)	702

November, **1881.**

H. Booth (C) ..... } No Contest.
W. Chatterton (C).. }

1882.

Jos. Hall (C)	896	J. T. Watts (C)	852
J. Broadbent (L)	869	W. Fidler (L)	820

1883.

J. Alcock (L)..... } No Contest.
E. Hollingworth (C) }

1884.

H. Booth (C)	888	P. Green (L)	780
W. Chatterton (C)	856	J. Owen (L)	661

1885.

H. G. Turner (C)	863	J. Hall (C)	830
J. Broadbent (L)	833	P. Green (L)	822

1886.

P. Green (L)	1017	J. Oldham (C)	822
J. Alcock (L)	976	E. Hollingworth (C)	787

1887.

R. Fairbrother (L)	976	H. Booth (C)	686
J. Heywood (L)	861	W. Bancroft (C)	606

On the death of Mr. Fairbrother, a year later, Mr. A. T. Hibbert (L) was returned unopposed.

1888.

H. G. Turner (C)..... } No Contest.
T. Mosedale (L) ..... }

Bye-election, in place of Alderman Green, Mr. W. M. Ashton (L) was unopposed.

1889.

W. M. Ashton (L) ..... } No Contest.
J. Bailey (L) ..... }

Successful Candidates.		Unsuccessful Candidates.	
1890.			
T. Fawley (C)	914	J. Heywood (L)	776
J. W. D. Barron (C)	825	I. Stainthorpe (L)	716
1891.			
H. G. Turner (C)	891	T. Beeley (L)	785
T. Mosedale (L)	807	A. Midgley (C)	780
1892.			
W. M. Ashton (L)	1005	J. Shenton (C)	857
J. J. Tinker (L)	880		
1893.			
J. W. D. Barron (C)	957	M. Warrington (L)	849
G. Ward (C)	897	J. Bailey (L)	848
1894.			
H. G. Turner (C)	957	T. Mosedale (L)	845
J. Cooke (C)	872	M. Stafford (L)	786
		J. Hopkinson (I.L.P.)	214
1895.			
J. Shenton (C)	972	J. Bedford (L)	814
J. Woolley (C)	884	J. W. A. Ryan (I.L.P.)	159
Bye-Election.			
G. Westbrook (C)	928	P. Green (L)	854
1896.			
T. C. Beeley (L)	1039	J. W. D. Barron (C)	872
A. P. Whitehead (L)	946	George Ward (C)	851
1897.			
J. J. Tinker (L)	929	G. J. Westbrook (C)	841
J. W. D. Barron (C)	884	T. White (L)	823
		J. Hopkinson (I.L.P.)	213
June, **1898.**—Bye-Election.			
T. Mosedale (L)	749	J. Kemp (C)	743
November, **1898.**			
James Woolley (C)	884	A. Stafford (L)	819
Jubal Shaw (C)	836	J. Grime (L)	784
GODLEY WARD.			
April, **1881.**			
E. Hibbert (L)	959	A. Haughton (C)	783
J. Higinbotham (L)	876	E. Shaw (C)	670
T. Shepley (L)	875	T. Mottram (C)	646
R. Baggaley (L)	870	C. Young (C)	612
T. Thornley (L)	868	J. Oldham (C)	609
J. Wild (L)	857	R. Andrew (C)	608
May, **1881.**			
A. Haughton (C)	871	J. Pennington (L)	767
E. Shaw (C)	815	J. Pickford (L)	751

LEWISHAM PUBLIC LIBRARIES

November, 1881.

Successful Candidates.		Unsuccessful Candidates.	
E. Shaw (C).....	} No Contest.		
J. Wild (L).....			

1882.

G. Brownson (L)..... ...	771	F. Drinkwater (C)	705
T. Shepley (L)	765	W. Maiden (C)	685

1883.

A. Haughton (C).....	} No Contest.		
J. Higinbotham (L).....			

1884.

E. Shaw (C)	812	J. Wild (L).....	584
F. Drinkwater (C)	773	J. Macnab (L).....	527

1885.

J. Bradley (L)	769	T. Shepley (L)	692
W. Maiden (C).....	761	J. Rowcroft (R)	163

1886.

J. Higinbotham (L)	946	A. Haughton (C)	795
J. Wild (L)	905	P. Higginbottom (C) ...	756

On death of Mr. Higinbotham, a year later, Mr. J. Tweedale (L) was returned unopposed.

1887.

I. Firth (L).....	958	F. Drinkwater (C)	709
F. Broadsmith (L).....	814	E. Shaw (C)	705

Bye-Election.

T. Shepley (L)	835	P. Higginbottom (C).....	728

1888.

T. Shepley.....	} No Contest.		
P. Higginbottom			

1889.

E. F. Cowley (C)	923	J. Tweedale (L)	722
J. Wild (L)	818		

1890.

I. Firth (L)	865	E. Shaw (C)	793
A. T. Hibbert (LU)	799	F. Broadsmith (L)	752

1891.

P. Higginbotham (C).....	801	T. Shepley (L)	683
E. Shaw (C).....	760	F. Broadsmith (L)	621
		L. Kenny (ILP).....	331

1892.

Bye-Election, May 4th.

W. Heginbotham (L).....	517	L. Kenny (ILP).....	508

November.

F. Thornely (L).....	876	J. T. Watts (C).....	679
E. F. Cowley (C).....	715	L. Kenny (Lab.)	550

1893.

Successful Candidates.		Unsuccessful Candidates.	
A. T. Hibbert (LU)	698	G. Brownson (L)	682
L. Kenny (ILP)	690	S. Fildes (C)	638

1894.

P. Higginbottom (C)	791	J. Bailey (L)	722
E. Shaw (C)	759	J. Andrew (L)	631
		H. Chadwick (ILP)	232

1895.

J. T. Watts (C)	801	J. Bailey (L)	761
E. F. Cowley (C)	767	H. Chadwick (Lab.)	156

1895. Bye-Election.

J. Bailey (L)	863	D. Shaw (C)	772
J. Cooke (C)	853	G. Brownson (L)	730
		S. Knowles (Lab.)	154

1896.

W. I. Sherry (L)	915	G. F. Drinkwater (C)	827
L. Kenny (Lab.)	871	D. Shaw (C)	787

Bye-Election. **1896.**

S. Fildes (C)	777	A. Slater (L)	750

1897.

Joe Cooke (C)	867	S. Fildes (C)	767
J. W. Maloney (L)	799	W. Cooper (L)	706
		R. Woolley (ILP)	215

1898.

G. F. Wild (L)	848	D. Shaw (C)	728
S. Fildes (C)	739	J. Quayle (L)	644

WERNETH WARD.

April, **1881.**

J. Cheetham (L)	764	J. Perrin (C)	567
J. Mycock (L)	754	J. Goodfellow (C)	553
C. Swindells (L)	750	F. Drinkwater (C)	527
H. Barlow (L)	738	T. F. Handford (C)	482
C. Fielding (L)	736	W. B. Redfern (C)	437
S. Robinson (L)	719	T. Swain (C)	436

May, **1881.**

J. Higginbottom (L)	724	J. Perrin (C)	636
J. Oldham (L)	678	J. Goodfellow (C)	570

November, **1881.**

J. Oldham (L) }
S. Robinson (L) } No Contest.

1882.

J. Higginbottom (L)	714	T. F. Handford (C)	540
H. Barlow (L)	712	J. Beech (C)	524

1883.

Successful Candidates.		Unsuccessful Candidates.	
J. Cheetham (L)	} No Contest.		
J. Mycock (L)			

1884.

W. Hibbert (C)	638	J. Oldham (L)	570
J. Walker (L)	622		

1885.

D. Stafford (L)	668	W. Heginbotham (L)	374
S. Horsfield (C)	599	D. West (C)	323
		T. Cook (R)	67

1886.

J. Mycock (L)	836	J. Hall (C)	592
R. Hibbert (L)	822		

1887.

J. Walker (L)	855	P. Sykes (C)	464
J. Oldham (L)	766		

1888.

D. Stafford (L) } Unopposed.
S. Horsfield (C) }

Bye-Election.

J. Marshall (L) Unopposed.

1889.

J. Mycock (L) } No Contest.
J. Marshall (L) }

1890.

J. Walker (L)	726	F. H. Pym (C)	656
J. Oldham (L)	702		

Bye-Election.

T. Brownson (L)	649	F. H. Pym (C)	631

1891.

E. W. Smith (L)	731	D. Stafford (L)	634
S. Horsfield (C)	708		

1892.

R. Hibbert (L)	797	J. Ollerenshaw (C)	634
T. Brownson (L)	771	W. Peck (Lab.)	113

1893.

Bye-Election.

S. Knowles (Trades Council) unopposed.

November.

J. Oldham (L)	741	J. Walker (L)	616
J. Ollerenshaw (C)	626	W. Peck (Lab.)	275

1894.

Successful Candidates.		Unsuccessful Candidates.	
E. W. Smith (L)	694	J. W. A. Ryan (ILP)	189
S. Horsfield (C)	655		

1895.

J. Cheetham (L)	648	W. Eccles (C)	592
J. Blackwell (L)	645	Joe Cooke (Ind.).....	451
		S. Knowles (Lab.)	128

1896.

J. Oldham (L)	915	A. B. Aspland (C)	677
Peter Green (L)	862		

Bye-Election.

J. Pollard (L)	781	A. B. Aspland (C)	759

1897.

E. W. Smith (L)	828	D. Shaw (C).....	676
J. Marshall (L)	750	H. Chadwick (Lab.)	173

1898.—Bye-Election.

T. Barlow (L)..... ... } Unopposed.
George Brownson (L) ... }

November, **1898.**

J. Blackwell (L)	802	James Bowker (C)	616
T. Wood (L)	671	James Tod (C)	505

December, **1898.**

J. Higinbotham (L)	528	T. Fox (ILP)	342

ELECTIONS OF ALDERMEN.

The aldermen of the borough are elected by the Council and sit for six years, one half of the aldermanic bench retiring every three years. The following are the appointments since the formation of the borough.

1881.

Thomas Ashton
John Thornely
Edward Hibbert
Thomas Thornely
Charles Fielding
Charles Swindells

1883.

John Thornely
Thomas Thornely
Charles Fielding

1885.

John Cheetham, in place of Charles Fielding, deceased.

1886.

Thomas Ashton Edward Hibbert Charles Swindells

1888.

Peter Green, in place of John Thornely, resigned.

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1889.

PETER GREEN
THOMAS THORNELY
JOHN CHEETHAM

1891.

JOSEPH MYCOCK.
in place of CHARLES SWINDELLS, deceased.

June, 1892.

JOSEPH WILD, in place of THOMAS THORNELY, deceased.

1892.

THOMAS ASHTON
EDWARD HIBBERT
JOSEPH MYCOCK

1895.

HENRY GOODIER TURNER
EGBERT FLETCHER COWLEY
EDWARD SHAW

1896.

PETER HIGGINBOTTOM, in place of EDWARD HIBBERT, resigned.
JOHN OLDHAM, in place of E. F. COWLEY.

1898.

JONATHAN BAILEY, in place of THOMAS ASHTON, deceased.

November, 1898.

JONATHAN BAILEY -- EDMUND WILD SMITH JOSEPH MYCOCK

Generally speaking, Hyde has always manifested keen and more than ordinary interest in political affairs. It has debated the great questions of the day in many debating societies in various portions of the town, and for some time the "Gee Cross Parliament," a debating society of exceptional size and quality, flourished in our midst. The people of Hyde now, as always, exhibit a great liking for meetings of a political order, and demonstrations of either party are generally well attended. A firmer grasp of the leading questions, whether of imperial politics or of local domestic affairs, seems to be a prevailing feature among the working class. This certainly is a healthy sign, and doubtless, under its influence, the evils which arise from our present party system will suffer mitigation.

CHAPTER VII.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

KETCHES of the lives of the various gentlemen who sat for the constituencies of North Cheshire, East Cheshire, and the Hyde Division, are here appended.

WILLIAM TATTON EGERTON

(1st Baron Egerton of Tatton).

Mr. W. Tatton Egerton, the first member for the Northern Division of Cheshire, was the eldest son of Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, of Tatton Park, a gentleman who for 19 years prior to the great Reform Bill had represented Cheshire in Parliament. The Egerton family is one of the wealthiest and most noted of the landed families in Cheshire, and many of its members have distinguished themselves in the public service. Mr. W. Tatton Egerton was born in 1806, and married on the 18th December, 1830, Lady Charlotte Elizabeth Loftus, eldest daughter of John, second Marquis of Ely. He successfully contested North Cheshire after the Reform Bill of 1832, and continued to hold the seat until 1858. He was raised to the peerage by the title of Baron Egerton of Tatton on April 15th, 1859. He died in 1883.

EDWARD JOHN STANLEY

(Lord Stanley, of Alderley)—Whig.

The Stanleys of Alderley are descended from Sir John Stanley, Knight, third son of Sir John Stanley, K.G., father of the first Earl of Derby. Edward John Stanley, second Lord of Alderley, was the eldest son of the seventh Baronet, who was

raised to the peerage in 1839 as the first Baron Stanley of Alderley. Like his father, Mr. E. J. Stanley was a prominent member of the Whig Party. He was returned in 1832 along with Mr. W. T. Egerton for the Northern Division of Cheshire, and in 1848 was summoned to the Upper House in his father's lifetime by the title of Baron Eddisbury of Winnington. He held successively the offices of Under Secretary of State for the Home Department, Secretary of the Treasury, Paymaster General of the Forces, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, President and Vice-President of the Board of Trade, and Postmaster General. He married in 1826 the eldest daughter of Viscount Dillon. He succeeded to the title of Stanley of Alderley on the death of his father in 1850. He died June 18th, 1869.

GEORGE CORNWALL LEGH, ESQ.

(Conservative).

George Cornwall Legh was a member of an ancient Cheshire family, seated at High Leigh, some short distance from Altrincham and Bowdon. Though not so important as the families of Legh of Lyme, and Legh of Adlington, the Leghs of High Leigh have, nevertheless, a unique position in the shire. Near to High Leigh is West Leigh Hall, the seat of the Leghs of West Leigh. The Leighs of High Leigh, and the Leghs of West Leigh, who do not seem to be descended from a common ancestor, have lived side by side for over 600 years. Occasionally they have been brought closer together by marriage, but the confusion caused by the singular position of the two—so widely apart in one sense, so close in another, has led to the lines :—

> Two establishments separate, two halls and two squires ;
> Two parsons, two chapels, two bells, and two quires.

The George Cornwall Legh referred to was one of the most important members of the family of High Leigh, and for long occupied a useful and honourable position as a landed proprietor and county gentleman of Cheshire. He first represented North Cheshire in 1841 when, in conjunction with Mr. W. Tatton Egerton, he defeated Mr. E. J. Stanley. In 1847 he retired from the contest, but in 1848 defeated Mr. F. D. P. Astley by a large majority, and continued to sit in conjunction with the Egertons until the North Cheshire Division became extinct.

THE HON. WILBRAHAM EGERTON.

(First Earl Egerton)—Conservative.

The Hon. Wilbraham Egerton was the eldest son of the first Baron Egerton of Tatton. He was born in 1832, and in 1858 succeeded his father as member for the Northern division of Cheshire, which constituency he represented (with Mr. George Cornwall Legh) for 10 years. He married first in 1857 Mary, eldest daughter of the second Earl Amherst, who died in 1892, and secondly in 1894, Alice Anne, daughter of Sir Graham Montgomery, Bart., widow of the third Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. He was educated at Eton and at Oxford where he took his M.A. Has held many public offices, a few of which are here enumerated. Was M.P. for Mid Cheshire 1868-83. Was on Royal Commission on Noxious Vapours. Chairman of Royal Commission on the Education of the Blind, Deaf, etc., 1884-7 Chairman of Manchester Ship Canal, 1887-94. President Royal Agricultural Society. Major in Earl of Chester's Yeomanry Cavalry. Chairman of Church Defence Institution. Chairman of Quarter Sessions. He succeeded his father in the peerage as second Lord Egerton in 1883, and in 1897, on the occasion of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, was elevated to an earldom, under the title of Earl Egerton of Tatton and Viscount Salford. His lordship is a Knight of Justice of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, and Ecclesiastical Commissioner of England. He has published a "Handbook of India and Oriental Arms," articles on "Agriculture," and the "Manchester Ship Canal." He owns about 25,000 acres in Lancashire, Cheshire, Derbyshire, and Norfolk, and among other valuable possessions, Italian, Dutch, and modern pictures, the famous library of Tatton, Queen Elizabeth's Horn book, and a large collection of Oriental Arms. Earl Egerton has travelled considerably in India and the East. The Egertons of Tatton are descended in the female line from the second Earl of Bridgewater, and have been settled at Tatton since the time of Charles II.

EDWARD CHRISTOPHER EGERTON

(Conservative).

Edward Christopher Egerton was the sixth son of Wilbraham Egerton, Esq., of Tatton Park, and was brother of the first Baron Egerton. He was born on July 27th, 1816, and was educated at Harrow and Christ Church, Oxford, where he took his B.A. in

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1837. Called to the Bar, Inner Temple, in 1840; was D.C.L. in 1841. In 1852 he was returned member for Macclesfield, which place he represented until the redistribution in 1868, when he elected to contest East Cheshire. He was returned in conjunction with Colonel W. J. Legh, but died suddenly the following year. Mr. Egerton married Mary Francis Pierrepont, daughter of the second Earl Manvers. He was Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in 1866.

COLONEL WILLIAM JOHN LEGH

(First Baron Newton)—Conservative.

The family of Legh of Lyme, of which William John Legh, first Baron Newton was the head, is one of great antiquity and fame. Lyme Hall, the Cheshire seat of the family, is (with the sole exception of Heaton Hall) the finest residence in the county. The Leghs of Lyme have been seated there for centuries, and have turned out many distinguished knights and gentlemen. Perkin Legh served Edward the III. and the Black Prince, at Cressy, and was afterwards beheaded for his loyalty to Richard II. Sir Peers Legh served Henry V., and was slain at the battle of Agincourt. The rest of the family history is equally interesting. William John Legh, J.P., D.L., for many years head of this ancient house, was born December 19th, 1828, and was the son of William Legh of Brymbo, Denbighshire, and Mary, daughter of John Wilkinson of Ratcliffe Hall, Leicester. He married in 1856 Mary, daughter of the Ven. Charles Norse Wodehouse, Archdeacon of Warwick; and Jane, daughter of fifteenth Earl of Erroll. He was educated at Rugby, and entered the army in 1848; was Captain of the 21st Fusiliers, and served with distinction in the Crimean war. He was appointed Hon. Colonel of the 4th Battalion Cheshire Regiment in 1873. Colonel Legh represented South Lancashire from 1859 to 1865, and was member for East Cheshire from 1868 to 1885. He unsuccessfully contested the Hyde Division at the first election in 1885, but was raised to the peerage in 1892 as Baron Newton of Lyme. His lordship was the owner of about 13,000 acres. Lord Newton died at his Cheshire residence in December, 1898.

SIR WILLIAM CUNLIFFE BROOKS, BART.

(Conservative).

Sir William Cunliffe Brooks, Bart, J.P., D.L., the great banker, was born in 1819, and was the eldest son of the

late Samuel Brooks, Esq., of Manchester, and Margaret, daughter of Thomas Hall, Esq., of Blackburn. He married first, in 1842, Jane, daughter of the late R. Orrell, Esq., who died in 1865; and secondly, in 1879, Jane, daughter of Colonel Sir David Davidson, K.C.B. Sir William Brooks was educated at Rugby and John's College, Cambridge. He was called to the bar (Inner Temple), in 1842, but subsequently exchanged the legal profession for that of banker in the well-known financial house of which he is now the head. In 1869, on the death of Mr. E. Christopher Egerton, Sir William Brooks contested East Cheshire with Sir Edward Watkin, whom he defeated by a large majority, and along with the late Lord Newton (then Col. W. J. Legh), he continued to sit for that Division until its extinction in 1885. Subsequently for six years (1886-1892) he represented the Altrincham Division of Cheshire, retiring in the year last mentioned in favour of Mr. Coningsby Disraeli, nephew and heir of the Earl of Beaconsfield. Sir William Brooks, who was created a baronet in 1886, has a residence at Barlow Hall, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester, and owns the large estate of the Forest of Glen Tana, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. His daughter is married to the Marquis of Huntley.

THOMAS GAIR ASHTON, ESQ., J.P., M.P.
(Liberal).

The Ashton family, of which Mr. Thomas Gair Ashton is now the head, is one of the best known families of Hyde. It is also one of the largest manufacturing and merchant families of England. Mr. Thomas Gair Ashton (the first member of Parliament for the Hyde Division) is the eldest son of the late Thomas Ashton, J.P., D.C.L., of Hyde and Didsbury; and was born 5th of February, 1855. He was educated at Rugby and University College, Oxford, where he took his M.A. On leaving Oxford Mr. Ashton joined the well-known firm of which he is now the principal member. He married, in 1886, Eva Margaret, daughter of J. H. James, Esq., of Kingswood, Waterford, Herts. In 1885, on the formation of the new Parliamentary Division of Hyde, Mr. T. G. Ashton was returned as its first member; but six months later was defeated at the general election in 1886. He was again unsuccessful in 1892, but in 1895 was returned as member for South Bedfordshire (Luton), which constituency he now represents. On the death of Mr. William Mark Ashton, J.P., he succeeded to the representation of Newton Ward on the Cheshire County Council, defeating Alderman Turner by a great majority. He was again returned (unopposed) in March, 1898. Mr. Thomas Gair Ashton has done much for education in Hyde, he has been an active president of the Hyde Mechanics' Institute, and is a member of the Technical Instruction Committee. Like his father, he has worked hard on behalf of education in the city of Manchester. He was hon. sec. of the Manchester Technical School from its formation to the time of handing it over to the Corporation, and was appointed a co-optative member of the Technical Instruction Committee of the Manchester Corporation. He took an active part in the management of the Whitworth Institute, of which he is one of the governors. He is interested in the Owens College, towards which his father devoted years of useful labour. An active liberal in politics, Mr. Ashton has long been looked on as one of the leaders of the Liberal party in the north, and was at one time connected in a secretarial capacity with the party organisation in Manchester.

An account of the Ashton family will be found in a later chapter.

JOSEPH WATSON SIDEBOTHAM, J.P. M.P.,

(Conservative).

The Sidebotham family are an old established local family, well known in the manufacturing world. They are extensive colliery proprietors and landowners in Hyde and Haughton, and were among the founders of the cotton trade in Hyde and the neighbouring townships. Kingston Mills, Gibraltar Mills, and factories in Haughton, were built by Sidebothams of a former generation. The present head of the family is Mr. Joseph Watson Sidebotham, M.P. for the Hyde Division of Cheshire. Mr. J. W. Sidebotham, who was born in 1857, is the eldest son of the late Joseph Sidebotham, Esq., F.R.S., of Erlesdene, Bowdon, Cheshire. He was educated at Owens College, Victoria University, Manchester, and is Mus. Bac., Oxon. He enjoys the unique distinction of being the only holder of a musical degree in the House of Commons. Mr. Sidebotham married in 1886 Marian, daughter of the late Rev. E. Dowling, of Timperley. In the same year, he successfully contested the Hyde Division,

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defeating Mr. Thomas Gair Ashton by a substantial majority. He was again successful over Mr. Ashton in 1892, and at the election of 1895 he defeated Mr. G. Wood Rhodes, Liberal, and Mr. George Christie, the candidate of the Independent Labour Party. Mr. Sidebotham has taken great interest in Hyde affairs, and few constituencies in the country have had their local as well as imperial interests so well looked after by their member as the Hyde Division. Mr. Sidebotham is a liberal supporter of public institutions in Hyde, and his appearances on local platforms are matters of every day occurrence. He has largely interested himself in the cemetery question, and has introduced a Bill into Parliament dealing with the obnoxious parts of the present burial law. He has also taken public action on the question of bogus musical degrees, and was appointed to the Royal Commission of Music by the House of Commons. He is a musical composer of considerable merit, and some of the products of his pen have become highly popular. Mr. Sidebotham has contributed articles to the press upon musical matters, and is universally recognised as a high authority on the subject. His residence is "The Thorns," Bowdon, Cheshire.

Appended is an account of

THE FAMILY OF SIDEBOTHAM OF HYDE AND HAUGHTON.

ARMS OF SIDEBOTHAM.—A chevron between three lions rampant, gules, field argent. Crest: An arm in armour embowed, holding a flag argent, charged with a cross, gules.

Motto: MERUI. (I have deserved.)

ARMS OF SIDEBOTHAM AND LOWE.—Ermine, an eagle with two heads displayed vert, charged on the breast with an escallop argent, between four escallops saltirewise of the second. Crest: On a wreath of the colours a demi lion argent, gorged with a collar pendant therefrom an escutcheon vert, charged with an escallop argent, and holding between the paws a staff raguley also vert.

Motto: AD SIDERA TENDO. (I stretch to the stars.)

(In 1871 the late Joseph Sidebotham, Esq., of Hyde and Bowdon, took out a patent to use the Lowe coat of arms and crest, and this is the one generally used by the hon. member for Hyde.)

The name of the family of which the hon. member for Hyde is the head, was formerly spelt Sydebotham or Sidebottam, and its founder is said to have come to England at the time of the Norman conquest. Its connection with Hyde dates back over

a century and a half, about which time one William Sidebottam came to Hyde from the salt district of Cheshire. This William Sidebottam (the great great grandfather of the member for Hyde) had several sons, four of whom were closely connected with this district, viz.: John, of Hoviley; Nathan, of Kingston; George, of Lower Haughton; and Henry, of Haughton Green.

I. John, of Hoviley (who served his apprenticeship in Chester as a cabinet maker), built the original Gibraltar Mill, which was almost contemporaneous with the original parts of Kingston Mills, Apethorn Mills, and the Hollow factory. He had two sons, Joseph and William, and three daughters. The daughters married and became Mrs. Hollingworth, Mrs. Ashworth (both then living in Hyde), and Mrs. Bowden, of Mellor.

(a) Joseph Sidebotham, son of John of Hoviley, married Miss Ann Watson, daughter of John Watson, of Beeston, Notts, and had issue John and Joseph. John was drowned on Whit-Friday, May 27th, 1836, while bathing in a part of the Tame called Gee Pool, close to Apethorn House. A tombstone in the graveyard of Denton old Chapel bears the following inscription:—

Sacred
To the memory of
John Watson Sidebotham,
Son of Joseph Sidebotham, of Werneth,
Aged 14 years and 8 months,
Who was drowned while bathing,
May 27th, 1836.

Also of
Edward Ellerby,
Son of William Ellerby, of Manchester,
Aged 17 years and 5 months,
Who lost his life in attempting to save that of his friend.

In personal appearance,
In amiableness of disposition,
And in promise of future talent,
They were similar and highly distinguished;
They were lovely and pleasant in their lives;
And in their deaths they were not divided.

Joseph, born in 1824, married Anne, daughter of Edward Coward, of Bowdon, and had issue seven children, six of whom are now living, viz.:—

Joseph Watson Sidebotham, Esq., of Hyde and Bowdon, Mus. Bac., J.P., M.P. for Hyde Division, born April 29th, 1857; married April 28th, 1886, Marian, daughter of Rev. E. Dowling, of Timperley, and has issue two sons, Joseph and Edward Maurice, and two daughters, Margaret Lilian and Eileen Anne.

Edward John Sidebotham, C.C., born July 11th, 1860 ; married Benedicta Mary, daughter of Dr. Adams, of Bodmin, and has issue Richard Edward Lowe, Gwendoline Mary, Dorothy Annie Benedicta, and John Oake.

James Nasmyth Sidebotham, M.E., born Oct. 3rd, 1864, married Francis Eliza, daughter of Dr. Adams, of Bodmin (she died September 16th, 1895), and has issue James Nasmyth Wedgewood and Francis Wedgewood.

Edith Watson.

Mary Lilian.

Annie Elizabeth (Mrs. G. W. Dowling).

(*b*) William, the other son of John of Hoviley, married Miss Jones of Llangollen, North Wales, and had issue six children, five of whom survive, viz. :—

Dr. George William Sidebotham, born December 29th, 1854 ; married April 21st, 1895, Sarah Elizabeth Ireland, of the Deane, Willing, Salop, and Chasely Court, Gloucestershire. Dr. Sidebotham, until recently, was Medical Officer of Health for Hyde.

Dr. Harold Sidebotham, born February 11th, 1864; married November 11th, 1891, Maud, daughter of Alfred A. Melurson, of Boston, Mass, and San Francisco. Of the three daughters, two are married, viz. :—Mrs. Edmund Johnson, of Watford, and Mrs. B. Bentham Dickinson, of Rugby.

II. Nathan Sidebotham, brother of John of Hoviley, was the pioneer of Kingston Mills. He married Miss Lowe, of Shepley Hall, by whom he had three children—Edward Lowe, John, and Jane. John was the only one of the three who married. He married Miss Horsfield, daughter of Joseph Horsfield, of Slack House, Hyde, but left no issue.

III. & IV. George and Henry (brothers of John of Hoviley) were the pioneers of Haughton Dale Mills, then called the Meadow Factory. George had one son, William, known as "William in the Brow." He built and lived in the house known as "Rose Bank," exactly opposite Apethorn House. He was at one time a partner with his cousin Joseph (son of John of Hoviley) at Gibraltar Mills. They eventually separated and William built a small factory at Two Trees Lane, now known as Taylor Bros., formerly Taylor & Rockliffe.

CHAPTER VIII.

ALDERMAN THOMAS ASHTON, J.P., D.C.L.

THOMAS ASHTON, the first Mayor of Hyde, and for many years one of the chief figures in the North of England, was descended from an old local family, which was originally established at Gee Cross. The Ashtons are mentioned in the Stockport Parish Register as early as the 16th century, at which period they farmed land in Werneth. Later they embarked in the cotton industry, and were among the founders of the cotton trade in this district.

Benjamin Ashton, the great-grandfather of Thomas Ashton, besides farming his own land at Gee Cross, engaged in weaving

at a period when cotton cloth was woven with linen warps from the North of Ireland and cotton weft spun in Lancashire. This Benjamin Ashton got the cloth woven with the cotton weft in all the handlooms of the neighbourhood, and afterwards conveyed it to Manchester for sale. He worked in connection with the Touchetts, an old Manchester family of merchants, and there is a tradition that at the time of Prince Charles' visit to Manchester in the Rebellion of '45, one member of the Touchett family was hidden away at Mr. Ashton's in Gee Cross, in order to avoid unpleasant contact with the leaders of the Rebel Army. The enterprise of the Ashton family has been pushed forward by each succeeding generation, and to-day there are few larger cotton manufacturers in the United Kingdom.

Apart from its success in trade, the family has been distinguished for the high sense of public duty which has characterised its members. Thomas Ashton, the father of the present subject, was a man of great energy, who took a deep interest in the education and the physical and moral advancement of his workpeople. He was one of the first manufacturers to establish day schools for children ; and in numerous other ways he set that example of labour for the public weal which his distinguished and honoured son so long and closely followed. Speaking of Mr. Ashton (senior) a report of 60 years ago says : "This gentleman has erected commodious dwellings for his workpeople, with each of which he has connected every convenience that can minister to comfort. He resides in the immediate vicinity, and has frequent opportunities of maintaining cordial association with his operatives Their houses are well furnished and clean, and their tenants exhibit every indication of health and happiness. Mr. Ashton has also built a school, where 640 children, chiefly belonging to his establishment, are instructed on Tuesdays in reading, writing, arithmetic, etc. A library, connected with this school, is eagerly resorted to, and the people frequently read after the hours of labour have expired. An infant school is, during the week, attended by 280 children, and in the evenings others are instructed by masters selected for the purpose." The elder Thomas died in 1845, the year before the passing of the Repeal of the Corn Laws, a measure to which he, with other members of his family, had given active support. In proof of this his portrait may be seen in the picture of the Anti-Corn Law League, while the portrait of Mr. Robert Ashton,

his brother (late of Rusholme Hall), is also one of the group. Mr. Thomas Ashton (senior) added to his benevolent and business duties a large amount of active political labour, and figured as the leader of the Liberal Party of this end of Cheshire in the memorable contest of 1832, when the county was still undivided and all the polling took place at Chester. His eminence as a great Lancashire merchant and manufacturer may be judged of by the fact that in the terrible financial panic of 1825, he, with the late Mr. John Kennedy, of Ardwick Hall, and Mr. G. W. Wood (at a later period M.P. for Lancashire), posted up to London as a deputation from the trade of Lancashire to urge on the Government of the day the suspension of the Bank Act. Their representations are believed to have had much weight in bringing that event to pass.

Mr. Thomas Ashton, the subject of the present sketch, well maintained the traditions of his family. Born at Hyde, in 1818, he was first educated at a Liverpool Academy and afterwards at the University of Heidelberg, in Germany, the English Universities at that time being closed to Nonconformists. Afterwards he toured in Italy and on his return to England joined the business in which his father and elder brother were partners. This business included an extensive import and export trade as Manchester merchants in addition to the local manufacturing branch. Under Mr. Thomas Ashton's management the business of the firm has been extended, and the local branch now constitutes the largest industrial concern in Hyde. It employs close on 3,000 hands within the walls of its three great factories, and the mills are among the best of their class in the country, thoroughly equipped and conducted with every regard for the comfort and welfare of the operatives.

A man of broad views, with a keen sense of the responsibilities of wealth, Mr. Thomas Ashton was always ready to devote his best energies to undertakings which he believed to be of public benefit. He exhibited his great concern for the workpeople in a decided fashion at the time of the Cotton Panic. The industrial north has had no trial to pass through equal in its keenness, in the poverty and starvation it meant to thousands and thousands of the operatives—to the great Cotton Famine. And it places Thomas Ashton high in the ranks of philanthropic men to record that, through all that bitter trade depression his mills never

stopped. It would have meant ruin to most manufacturers to have run their mills at that period with the price of cotton so exorbitant. But Mr. Ashton's resources were equal to the strain, and in spite of the immense financial loss it must have been, employment was provided for his workpeople. In addition to this Mr. Ashton was the life of the Relief Committees established on all hands, and a fine testimony to his labours in this direction was contained in the formal resolution conferring upon him the freedom of the City of Manchester in 1892. There it was stated that he was "one of the few survivors of the group of illustrious men who made such successful efforts to grapple with the serious crisis occasioned by the Cotton Famine."

At the time of the Corn Law agitation Mr. Thomas Ashton actively allied himself with Bright, Cobden, and other famous Free Traders, and was one of the most zealous prosecutors of the movement. His political sympathies were always strongly liberal in character, and he was one of the most prominent of advanced reformers. For a long period he was recognised as the head of the Liberal party in the large area with Manchester for its centre, and in 1852 was pressed to contest South Lancashire in the Liberal interest. This invitation, together with others of a similar nature, he declined. He also declined to be a candidate for the representation of the Hyde Division in 1885. In local politics, however, Mr. Ashton took a very active part, and was one of the first Radicals elected to the Hyde Town Council. He received at that election the highest number of votes of any of the 36 candidates brought forward, and upon the first meeting of the Council, on April 25th, 1881, he was elected an alderman and first Mayor of Hyde. Whilst holding the latter office he laid the foundation stone of the Hyde Town Hall, on June 30th, 1883. In the same year he held office as high sheriff of Lancashire.

Mr. Ashton will be best remembered in Hyde for the interest he took in the town's welfare, and for his many public benefactions. Prior to the incorporation of the town he worked on the Local Board, of which he was the first chairman. He was the founder of the Hyde Sick Kitchen, and for years his daughter, Miss Ashton, has maintained a nursing institution for the benefit of all classes in the town. He built the Flowery Field Unitarian Church, and made large additions and improvements to the schools erected by his father. He also supported financially at one

time or another almost every other school and place of worship in Hyde. Mr. Ashton was for a long period interested in the Hyde Mechanics' Institution, and did a great deal in putting the educational movement of the town upon a firmer footing. Not only did he contribute largely to the funds of the above institution, but he assisted the higher education of the town by establishing and continuing a scheme of scholarships to enable students to go to Manchester Technical School and Owens College. These scholarships were open to all, and by their means many a poor but industrious youth has paved the way to high and useful positions in life. The new Technical School has now taken upon itself the burden of the old Mechanics' Institution, but it is satisfactory to know that the Ashton family contributed £2,000 towards the cost of the new building.

In Manchester, as in Hyde, Mr. Ashton was looked up to as a leading citizen. In his younger days he was a very active merchant, and at one time a director of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce. In conjunction with Sir T. Fairbairn he was a promoter of the Exhibition of 1857. He also took a leading part in the reform of "Hulme's Charity," whereby large sums of money, which were being practically wasted, were utilised in support of leading educational institutions. Mr. Ashton was appointed chairman of the Board of Governors of Hulme's Charity; he was also a Governor of the Grammar School. He was principal agent in the extension of Owens College, and the promotion of the Victoria University, and was one of the most liberal subscribers to the funds. It was only to be expected that a man so eminently benevolent and useful should be sought as the recipient of public honours. In 1882, Mr. Ashton was offered a baronetcy by Mr. Gladstone, but declined the honour. He was made a county justice for Cheshire in 1846, and for Lancashire in 1852; high sheriff of Lancashire in 1883; presented with the Freedom of Manchester in 1892, and in 1895 had the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws bestowed upon him by the Victoria University.

Respecting this degree, probably no seat of learning ever bestowed a similar honour more justly deserved by its recipient. Dr. Ward (late principal of Owens College) in a notice written for the Manchester Literary Society, says:—"Mr. Ashton was well read in many subjects and in full sympathy with literary and

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scientific men. An interest in philosophic as well as in historical studies had remained to him from his Heidelberg days, and the pleasure which he took in the conversation of the late Professor Huxley when his guest at Ford Bank in 1870, is vividly remembered by those who saw them together. But his field of action lay elsewhere than in the world of letters and science, though he was brought into close contact and connection with it through his services to higher education. Of these the most conspicuous consists in the leading part taken by him in placing on a basis of permanent efficiency, a Manchester institution which before the close of his career had taken the foremost place among English University Colleges of the Victorian type." And then Dr. Ward adds that the Victoria University without his advice and encouragement would have remained an academic dream.

Mr. Ashton married in 1851, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. S. S. Gair, of Liverpool (a partner in the Liverpool House of Baring Bros.). His eldest son, Mr. Thomas Gair Ashton was the first member of parliament for the Hyde Division, and now represents South Bedfordshire. His second son, Mr. Wm. Mark Ashton, was the representative of Newton Ward upon the Cheshire County Council, and a Town Councillor of the Borough of Hyde. His eldest surviving daughter is the wife of the Right Hon. James Bryce, M.P.

Mr. Thomas Ashton died at his Lancashire residence, Ford Bank, Didsbury, on the 21st of January, 1898, and his remains were cremated at the Manchester Crematorium.

In Hyde his death was mourned by all shades of political opinion, Conservatives vying with Liberals in manifestation of public regret.

Appended is a pedigree and account of the family of Ashton, which will give some idea of the important part played by the Ashtons in the history of the district and of the North of England generally. Few families have done so much towards the development of English trade and commerce, while for the discharge of public duties its members are equally famed.

Arms of Ashton of Hyde.—Sable on a pile between two crescents in base argent, a mullet pierced of the first. Crest: On a mount vert, a mower proper vested paly argent and sable, in the act of whetting his scythe, also proper.

The Ashtons (whom tradition says were a junior branch of the Ashtons of Stoney Middleton, who were themselves a junior branch of the Ashtons of Ashton-under-Lyne) have been settled at Hyde and largely in the township of Werneth since the days of Queen Elizabeth.

Joseph Ashton, of Werneth, in the year 1698, made over certain lands there to his son Samuel Ashton.

Samuel Ashton, of Gerrards, born 1674 ; married Jane, daughter of John Kinder, of Bredbury, County Chester, and died 1754, leaving with other issue a son.

Benjamin Ashton, of Gerrards, born 1718 ; married 1742, Elizabeth, daughter of Edward Lees, of Hazlehurst, Ashton-under-Lyne ; died 1791, leaving with other issue—

Samuel Ashton, of Gerrards, born 1742 ; married Mary, daughter of John Oldham ; and died 1812, having had with other issue—

I. Samuel Ashton, of Gerrards and Pole Bank, J.P., counties Lancaster, Chester, and Derbyshire, born 1773 ; married Mary, daughter of Thos. Turner ; died 1836, having issue—

(*a*) Thomas, born 1807, died 1831. (Shot by assassins in Apethorn Lane).

(*b*) James, of Highfield, Bredbury and Muirwood, Herts., born 1809, died 1866, leaving issue by Francis, daughter of David Cheetham, of Stalybridge.

Phillip James, born 1847, died 1878.

Robert, of Croughton, Cheshire, born 1848 ; married Lucy, daughter of Cecil Dunn Gardner ; died 1898, leaving issue a son, Robert Cecil Noel, born 1888, and a daughter, born 1889.

(*c*) Benjamin Ashton, of Pole Bank, J.P., Cheshire, born 1813, died 1889.

(*d*) Samuel, of Telham Grange, Sussex, born 1821 ; married daughter of T. Papillon, of Crowhurst, Sussex ; died 1885.

(*e*) Elizabeth, married A. Mackenzie, and had, with other issue, Fitz-Arundell Mackenzie, of Highfield, Bredbury, and Howden Court, Tiverton, born 1854, who assumed name of Mackenzie Ashton on succeeding to property of his cousin, Phillip James Ashton, in 1878.

(*f*) Jane, married Otto E. Burchardt, German Consul in Liverpool, and has, among other issue, Arthur Godfrey, born 1854; married 1885, the daughter of Samuel Greg Rathbone, of Liverpool. (A. G. Burchardt assumed name of Burchardt Ashton on succeeding to property of his uncle, Benjamin Ashton). Ernest Ashton Burchardt, of Bicester, Oxfordshire.

(*g*) Mary, married T. B. Potter, M.P. for Rochdale.

(*h*) Ann, married Charles Andrew, Esq., of Compstall.

II. Thomas Ashton (son of above Samuel, who died 1812), of Hyde, J.P. counties Lancaster and Chester, born 1775; married 1804 Harriet, daughter of Thomas Booth, of Godley, died 1845, having issue—

(*a*) Samuel, of Oaklands, Godley, J.P., born 1804, died 1860 without issue.

(*b*) Thomas Ashton, of Hyde and Ford Bank, Manchester, J.P. counties Lancaster and Chester, D.L. county Lancaster, High Sheriff, 1883, Hon. D.C.L., Victoria University, born 1818; married Elizabeth, daughter of S. S. Gair, of Liverpool; died 1898, leaving issue—

Thomas Gair Ashton, J.P. counties Lancaster and Chester, M.A. Oxford University, M.P. Hyde 1885-6, M.P. South Beds. 1895, C.C. on Cheshire County Council, born 1855; married Eva Margaret, daughter of J. H. James, of Kingswood, Waterford, Herts. He has issue Thomas Henry, born 1887, died 1897, Marian Evelyn, and Margaret Joan.

Samuel Edgar, born 1857, died 1880.

William Mark, of Heyscroft, Didsbury, J.P. and C.C. county Chester, born 1858; married 1886 Letitia Mary, daughter of William Kessler, of Manchester; died 1895. Issue: Samuel Edgar, born 1888, Letitia Dorothy.

Harriet Gertrude, married Arthur G. Lupton, of Leeds.

Elizabeth Marion, married Rt. Hon. James Bryce, P.C., M.P., D.C.L.

Margaret.

Katherine, married Charles Lupton, of Leeds.

Grace Mary, married Philip W. Kessler, of Manchester.

Charlotte Jane, married Edward Tootal Broadhurst, of Manchester.

(*c*) Mary daughter of T. Ashton, died 1845, married D. Harrison, of Thompson Cross.

(*d*) Jane, married John Leech, of Gorse Hall.

(*e*) Harriet, died unmarried.

(*f*) Sarah, married C. W. Newman, of Liverpool.

III. James Ashton (son of Samuel, who died 1812), of Newton Lodge, born 1777, married Elizabeth, daughter of G. Astley; died 1841, leaving issue—

John Ashton, of Newton Lodge and Little Onn Hall, Staffordshire, married Elizabeth, daughter of John Leech, of Stalybridge, and had issue—

(*a*) Charles James, of Newton Lodge and Little Onn Hall, born 1830, died 1891; married first Maria, daughter of James Bazley, by whom issue Charles, born 1868, died 1889; married second Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph Woodward, of Pershore. Worcestershire, by whom he had issue Eveline Mary, Amy Elizabeth (now of Little Onn Hall and Newton House).

(*b*) John William, of Newton House, born 1833, died 1889.

IV. Robert (son of S. Ashton, died 1812), of Croughton, Cheshire, and of Newton Bank, J.P. counties Lancaster and Derbyshire, born 1797, died 1856; married Lucy Horsfield.

V. Mary (daughter of S. Ashton, died 1812), born 1792; married Wm. Tinker, of Hyde, surgeon, died 1866, leaving a son, Francis William, born 1830, who assumed name of Ashton.

The above are the descents of the main branch of the Ashton's having property in Werneth, Hyde, and Newton.

Other members of Samuel Ashton's family were John Ashton, born 1779, who lived where the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, now stands, and who at his death in 1846, left nearly £200,000 to the reduction of the national debt. Benjamin Ashton, born 1789, who built the Printworks; Joseph, born 1784; Jane, born 1782; Elizabeth, born 1794; and Ann, born 1801.

The Robert Ashton mentioned above was a well-known public man in Manchester, and with his brother Thomas (grandfather of Mr. T. G. Ashton) a prominent member of the Anti-Corn Law League. They gave their thousands towards the support of the agitation for the repeal of the Corn Laws, and probably no family in the country contributed as much.

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CHAPTER IX.

CAPTAIN CLARKE, R.N., J.P.

CAPTAIN Hyde John Clarke was for a long period the leading spirit in public affairs in the neighbourhood of Hyde. He sat on the magisterial bench for four counties (Cheshire, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Derbyshire), and was ever forward in any movement likely to tend to the general good. His prominence and popularity as a public man is evidenced by the fact that in 1839 the inhabitants of Hyde presented him with a handsome testimonial, in "recognition of his many services,"

and in order to show their regard for him, and for "his unwearied disinterestedness, impartiality, and affability." The testimonial took the form of plate, valued at 270 guineas, and on the tureen

CAPTAIN CLARKE AS A BOY (*from an old painting*).

was this inscription: "Presented with other pieces of plate to Hyde John Clarke, Esq., of Hyde Hall, Captain of the Royal Navy, by the inhabitants of Hyde and its vicinity, as a token of their regard for his long and valuable services, and of their high esteem for his private character. A.D. 1839." As illustrative of the representative character of this presentation, it should be mentioned that the principal ministers of the Established Church, and of the Nonconformist bodies, together with influential members of both political parties, attended and spoke on the occasion, while the meeting, which took place in the Navigation Inn, is described by the newspapers as having lasted three hours, and being "a ceremony which in these excited and jealous times has hardly had its parallel."

The earlier portion of Captain Clarke's career was occupied by his naval duties. He joined the navy at Portsmouth on the 29th of June, 1791, at the age of fourteen, and was placed aboard the "*Bedford*," 74 guns, under Captain Sir A. Snape Hammond. One of his first duties was to provide three ropes with which to hang three men for mutiny. In 1793, he was removed to the "*Duke*," and served in the West Indies until the close of the year 1798, when he saw service in the North Seas on board the '*Amphion*," 32 guns, and the "*Nassau*," 64 guns. He became Lieutenant on December 31st, 1798, and subsequent to 1804 served on the "*Antelope*" and the "*Powerful*," in the North Seas and the East Indies. On the 13th June, 1806, he fought at the capture of the privateer, "*La Henrietta*," which result was effected after a running fight of two hours, and on the 9th July in the same year he aided in the capture of the French privateer, "*La Bellone*." He was invalided in August, 1807. Three years later he joined as senior the "*Temeraire*" for service in the Mediterranean, but prior to sailing was promoted to the rank of Commander. For a time he was on the safe-guard service in Liverpool.

After a distinguished career as an officer of the Royal Navy Captain Clarke settled in Hyde. The writer of a history of the Clarkes of Hyde and Swanswick tells us, "After the death of the old Squire, Captain Clarke went to live at Hyde Hall, as manager of the estates, at the request of his half-brother George, who preferred to remain in America, in the spacious house called Hyde Hall, on the banks of the lake of Otsego, where he had a large estate left him by his great uncle George." Another writer says, "After ploughing the deep the Captain soon fell into his new sphere and *ploughed* the land. He took great interest in the colliers and workhands at the mills. He was an early riser, and his great delight was to meet them as they came down the private road from Haughton to the mills in Hyde, and to have a chat with them. He deemed it only right that they should be supplied with the produce of the land at as cheap a rate as possible, and on the same principle he kept about 20 cows, the "fore milk" being sold in the (then) village, while the "afterings" was all churned by a small steam engine, and he had his own private mark upon the butter."

From the time of his settlement in Hyde to his removal from the town, Captain Clarke was in every sense the grand old man

of the place. He was the principal figure at most public assemblies both in Hyde and in the neighbouring towns, and in the newspapers of the day his name is constantly found as that of a leader of public opinion in these portions of Lancashire and Cheshire. Few magistrates played so conspicuous a part in the great industrial agitation of the thirties and forties, and certainly none exhibited the same degree of coolness, or won the general regard of all parties as did Captain Clarke. Throughout the Chartists' risings he was constantly in request, and to his efforts the satisfactory termination of many unpleasant incidents was mainly due. More than once, as was to be expected, his loyalty and devotion to duty brought upon him the odium of the ring-leaders of the rioters, and sinister threats were hurled at his head. But the Captain through all remained the same fearless, open-hearted, English seaman, with an old fashioned idea of the dignity of his public position, and of the responsibility that position entailed. His loyalty to duty was proverbial and probably no man feared the consequences less than he.

Captain Clarke for many years lived at Hyde Hall and had a family of nine children, only one of whom is left. Mr. John Clarke, of Brook House, Oswestry, the surviving member of Captain Clarke's family, has supplied the writer with much interesting matter concerning the early history of Hyde. Among other things of interest is the following extract from one of his letters which shows the prominence of Captain Clarke's position as a magistrate and a leading public man, besides throwing a side-light on one very important event of local history.

Mr. Clarke writes :—"I remember well the murder of Thos. Ashton. We were at supper and I happened to look out through the window—my sailor father did not like the blinds down so that he might "study" the stars—and saw someone hastening up the front court. Soon after there was a furious knocking at the front door that startled most of us and the man came in to ask my father to go up to Pole Bank. My mother did not wish him to go, for Stephens, I think it was, had said, "Mrs. Clarke would make a nice widow." You know my father was very active at the time. The man said, 'Captain, if you will give me your little book, I will swear this is the blood of Thomas Ashton on my hands.' After that he went, and I think called for Mr. Chorlton, Magistrate's Clerk, who lived at Wood End."

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It is worthy of note that Captain Clarke's activity in suppressing the spirit of riot and lawlessness which was so rife about this period, won him the thanks of the war office and of the Earl of Stamford, and he was widely looked up to as one of the principal forces for the maintenance of law and order in the cotton district.

Among other striking incidents of Captain Clarke's career, was his connection with Louis Napoleon on the occasion of the latter's visit to Manchester, in 1839. The Prince carried letters of introduction to Captain Clarke, who stayed with the party at the Royal Hotel in Manchester. The Royal guests inspected several mills in the district, and attended a dramatic representation of one of Charles Dickens' novels, at the Theatre Royal. The *Manchester Guardian* of December 29th, 1852, has the following passage concerning the visit. . . . . "The visit of Louis Napoleon to Manchester." We have received from the secretary of the Manchester Mechanics' Institute the following extract from the book of autographs, entered on the 29th January, 1839, the day of the Emperor's visit:—

Le Prince Napoleon Louis Bonaparte.
Le Colonel Vaudrey.
Le Vicompte de Persigny
Dr. H. Conneau.
Captain Hyde Clarke, Royal Navy of England.

Some of these French names are perhaps but too well known to the world as still associated with Victor Hugo's "Man of Success."

Captain Clarke devoted much attention to the immediate social and religious needs of his own town. He was the moving spirit in the erection of St. George's Church, obtaining the gift of the site from his half-brother George. He also was mainly instrumental in securing the means wherewith to build, and for a long time was the principal supporter of the edifice. In politics Captain Clarke was a staunch Conservative, and was a prominent figure and a leading speaker at most of the great meetings in Lancashire and Cheshire. His removal from Hyde to Llangollen was felt as a great loss to the community, and his death in 1857 was deeply regretted. There was, perhaps, no greater favourite with all classes about Hyde than Captain Clarke. Even to-day a keen

interest in anything appertaining to the "old Captain," as he is affectionately termed, is entertained by the older end of the population. He is still widely spoken of with great feeling, and his memory will go down to future generations as that of an upright, honest man, who strove to live up to the highest ideal of an English gentleman.

Captain Clarke married, in 1808, Ann Joyce, of Whitchurch, by whom he had issue :—

Hyde, *b.* 1813, *d.* 1858, buried at Swanswick, Jamaica.
Edward, *b* 1815, *d.* 1874, buried in St. George's Churchyard, Hyde.
Henry, *b.* 1816, *d.* 1855, buried at Llantysilio, Denbighshire.
John, *b.* 1820, still living at Oswestry.
Sophia Ann (Peacock), *b.* 1809, *d.* 1879, buried at St. Peter's, Ashton-u-Lyne.
Sarah, *b.* 1810, buried in St. George's Church, Hyde.
Emma Beetenson (Cocks), *b.* 1811, *d.* 1846, buried at St. Peter's Oldham.
Elizabeth Mary, *b.* 1825, *d.* 1841, buried in St. George's Church, Hyde.
Fanny, *b.* 1828, *d.* 1874, buried in St. George's Church, Hyde.

As already stated, the only survivor of this large family is John Clarke, Esq., late of Hyde, and now of Oswestry, Salop.

JOHN CLARKE, ESQ.

Mr. John Clarke has taken a deep interest in Church and Sunday school work, particularly at Llangollen, where his services were

publicly acknowledged by a suitable presentation. He took an active part in the formation of the 15th Salop Volunteers in 1860, and was the first man sworn in. For many years he was secretary to the Company, and was Lieutenant and Quartermaster of the 2nd Battalion Shropshire Regiment, for over 12 years. Mr. Clarke has always taken a deep interest in Hyde and its affairs, and has many recollections of its past events. He was present and dined with the Royal Party in Manchester over 60 years ago, when Captain Clarke was the guest of the Prince Napoleon at the Royal Hotel.

CHAPTER X.

SOME LOCAL CHARACTERS.

NGLISH village life, of a generation gone by, was generally productive of some individual of uncommon order. Charles Dickens has made the world acquainted with the old-fashioned (though perhaps harshly drawn) type of village beadle. Few people of to-day know that Hyde once possessed a "beadle"; but nevertheless that was so, and he was a great character in his day. The children imagined him to be some sort of super-human being, as he paraded the streets adorned with old style hat and wand or staff of office. Certainly, in the matter of picturesque appearance, he has no rival in the modern borough constable. The Hyde beadle paid weekly attendance on the churchwardens, who paraded the streets during divine service, to pounce upon all such as preferred lounging in the street to sitting beneath the eloquence of the parson. "Churchwardens' parades" are now well nigh forgotten, and it is perhaps as well that they are, for the wardens would seem creatures of small importance without the guardianship of the vanished beadle.

An old world village could always boast its simpleton or village fool. It is a matter of congratulation that characters of this class are on the wane; the world is wiser in its generation and seeks to wipe out the species. Old boys of a former generation can call to mind one "Peter Simple" of the past, the butt of the school boys and the little gutter children, the laughter and the pity of the elders. Generally he was called "Mad Pee," or for variation was addressed as "Windy Low Peter." He was not without his senses at times, and his main fault was drink.

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Some few years ago the town possessed two quaint "characters"—brothers be it said—who clung to each other with a tenacity to be likened only to that of Jonathan and David. They were antique specimens of manhood with an old-world gait, not devoid of the picturesque, and the arabs of the streets trooped after them in crowds chorusing their common names "Robin and Jam." Which was "Robin," and which was "Jam," would have puzzled most people to tell. They were as much alike as two peas in a pod, and it was often said of them that when one died the other would not long survive him.

A character of another class was popularly known as "The King of Hyde." He was a self-styled king, but the people adopted the title and so it stuck. His name is needless. He was a character of the wealthy class, to whom a cotton lord of a former generation left well nigh half a million sterling. The cotton lords of Hyde, in days gone by, were men of "shekels" with vast store of "corn and oil and wine," as the old book says, or what is equally to the purpose, they possessed the modern equivalent. They could have made some of the landed gentry look "blue" in the matter of hard cash. Those who made the cash sometimes hoarded it. The "King of Hyde" spent it, and his reckless spending of the thousands earned him a title without a crown.

Hyde still boasts a character whose deeds deserve some mention. His great point was the practical joke in all its fulness, and that nature of a joke never had a more devoted follower than he. His exploits are told in local ballads, and in the stories of the crony-circle round many a chimney corner. One specimen will suffice, and it will serve to show that the boisterous merry-making of our ancestors has not died out with the passing of the old generation. The character in question sought the graveyard when the publichouses closed their portals for the night. He was armed with a white shirt, that was all; then he unrobed within the shadow of a tomb, donned the white garment and waited like a warrior who "bides his time." The tale is worthy the old days when the "prentice gang" made merry with the watch. But the watch is a thing of the buried past, and the police now hold their place. The "spectre" knew that three tall leaders of the force of law and order met beneath the churchyard wall upon the stroke of 12. He had staked his wealth and reputation on the task, and when the clock pealed out

the hour of midnight, the "ghost" rose from the grave, the last trumpet sounded, and, in a voice of thunder, the "character" announced the dawning of the judgment day. The police vanished. They looked once at the frightful apparition and then—they thought the judgment hour had come.

The above tale has the merit of being true.

The next "character" is of a somewhat nobler order. The world trembles still with the echoings of Waterloo, and it is interesting to know that at least one "character" of this district fought the Frenchmen on that field of glory, where English freedom took its stand, and flourished in the life blood of its sons. Old Samuel Hardy, the Waterloo veteran, some men still remember. He came from near Haughton, and was a shoemaker by trade. First he joined the militia, then when the country needed heroes to fight the French, and to say whether England should still remain the one nation in Europe on which the tyrant's foot had not been set, he volunteered at Manchester, and was drafted with the 52nd regiment of foot. In this corps he served before Paris, in the closing campaigns before Napoleon's abdication, and then he stood with the Duke at Waterloo. He was one of Wellington's "darlings," those men like the thin old marshal himself—men of iron who made old England what she is, and it needs no modern scribe to say "they distinguished themselves at Waterloo." Every British soldier there was a hero, rich and poor alike, and I fancy the grand old duke would ask no dearer favour now, than that all those war-dogs of the year '15 and the great Peninsular battles should be his own eternal comrades in the Valhalla of renown. Hardy died in 1865, and was buried in Denton Old Churchyard. He was highly respected in the neighbourhood, his fine old figure, his breezy heart, and his old-world ways, forming honoured links with the great historic past.

One other class of "character" should be mentioned before the end. In ancient days every village had its minstrel, its village poet, who made its lore, its sagas, its songs of village deeds, and then sang them in the tap-room of the village inn. The puritan may sneer at this, but after all the man was the legitimate descendant of the old-time minstrel whom iron-handed custom had driven from his high estate. Even the village poet

has left us now, but his descendant still lives on, in another shape perhaps, but yet the link in the chain that binds the past with the present. The modern minstrel is the antiquary, and he wants finding. Unlike the ancient representative of his order, he does not wander with "his roundelays from door to door." He thinks he would not be welcome and so he stays at home.

Such a character dwells in our midst to-day, and his work deserves recognition, because he does what will in days to come be looked on as a public service. He gathers and stores the records of the past. He does it with no thought of reward, he does it because he loves the task, the minstrel spirit is in him still; though the prosaic 19th century swings around him. Mr. Samuel Hadfield, of Haughton, is a "character" of whom a volume might be written. He is a hale old fellow of 79, and in his youth he was a spinner. Afterwards he joined the band of "jolly hatters" for which Denton has long been famed. But he loved the past, the great old histories, the "legends and traditons with their voices from afar off." He loved them all; he treasured them in his heart, and longed to hand them down. In this love of ancient things he is typical of many another cotton worker of a past generation. For years he has contributed fugitive essays on local history topics to the papers of the district—*The North Cheshire Herald*, *The Ashton Herald*, *The Ashton Reporter*, *The Hyde and Denton Chronicle*, *The Denton and Haughton Examiner*—the last two now defunct. His writings show a rare and racy literary style, and are of more than average merit. Besides the above topics they include character sketches and descriptive rambles of the district. There is a decided literary flavour in all his work, and a collection of his pieces should prove of value in the future.

Mr. Hadfield's writing days are now almost over, but still he is a reliable source of information and folk-lore. His mind is stocked and every article is catalogued and in order. His home is clean and neat, with a neatness and a cleanliness that belong to other days; it is antiquity itself. He has bits of oak, the walls are covered with illustrations and prints of every intellectual order, bishops, statesmen, places of antiquity, old halls and manors, and famous men of past times. His library consists of thousands on thousands of newspaper cuttings. He has every scrap of writing that deals with the local past. He has every sermon preached by the late Bishop of Manchester (Fraser), and many another literary

treasure from the same master mind. His cottage is a veritable curiosity and a paragon of order. Every paper is docked and ticketed. Every scrap has its place and the necessary document is forthcoming whenever it is required. He is like some grey magician, some Merlin of the olden time at whose summons comes up from the dream mists of the past, pictures of all that has been, pictures of the sacred memories of these parts, and in them live and move and speak, the men, the figures, and the voices of the mighty host of local forms who have long ago been still. It is a treat in these days to see a character like our antiquary. God grant his race may never die.

CHAPTER XI.

OLD MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

"In the days long since departed."—*Longfellow.*

MOST of the towns and villages in the North country can boast the former possession of many quaint manners and customs. Hyde is no exception to the rule and the rough and rude habits which characterized English life of a few generations ago, were common in the township.

Bull and bear baiting were popular pastimes, and more than one spot in the neighbourhood boasted its bull ring or its bear pit. There was a famous rendezvous behind the Grapes Inn, Gee Cross, where many exhibitions of these sports were given. Occasionally the "baits" were varied with cock-fighting or dog contests. Most of the families prided themselves on the possession of some canine phenomenon, or sturdy little bantam, that was literally treasured as "worth its weight in gold."

There were, however, many other rough customs of a far less barbarous character than the above. Easter, especially, was rich in them; indeed some of the Easter customs still linger in a more or less degenerate form. The act of soliciting "pace eggs" or "peace eggs" was very prevalent, not only in the immediate neighbourhood of Hyde, but throughout Cheshire and Lancashire. Groups of the younger folk would go round from house to house with faces blackened or wearing masks and in some ribald chorus demand the customary Easter gift.

Pace egg, pace egg,
Either a egg or a haupenny.

Another habit peculiar to the neighbourhood was this. On Easter Monday some enterprising individual decked out for the occasion, or, oftener than not, some rag-stuffed guy, would be ridden round the streets on horseback, in caricature of the famous Black Knight of the neighbouring town of Ashton. Through the vulgar alteration of the district this effigy is commonly known by the name of the "Blake Lad," and is to-day a well-known Easter observance.

An Easter custom now extinct was that of "Lifting." On Monday the men lifted—that is, seized and threw up again and again—any woman they might meet, the penalty charged in lieu of this being a kiss or a fine. On Tuesday the women had their turn, and levied contribution on the men. This custom was largely followed here, particularly at the mills, and Mr. John Thornely recently stated that, in his early days as manager in Hyde, it had cost him pounds in payment of redemptive fines. The women at Hibbert and Aspland's mill in Manchester Road were notorious as the champion lifters in the district, and on one famous occasion they seized and lifted the factory inspector, much to that gentleman's discomfiture and disgust. Finally one woman was thrown high in the air, and the attendant "lifters" failed to catch her, with the result that her arm was badly broken. This led to an action-at-law, and the custom of lifting came to an end in this district.

To the above may be added other annual customs of the days gone by, such as the ringing of the "Shrift Bell," on Shrove Tuesday; the annual Morris Dancers and the Rush Bearing festival. The morris dancers still remain with us, and a sort of commemoration of the rush bearing is also left. But it is not the old-fashioned rush bearing. That consisted in an annual procession of village maidens (accompanied by garlands, banners, and bands of music) bearing bundles of rushes, which were afterwards strewn upon the floors of the churches to serve as a covering or carpet for the coming winter.

Another curious custom in these parts was what was known as the "Riding of the Stang." There are many people still alive who can call to mind the carrying out of this curious observance. In one way it was a rude effort on the part of the community to ensure a right observance of the laws of public morality. If ever

a wife proved unfaithful to her spouse, or *vice versa*, or if ever a shrew ill-used her rightful lord and master, this custom was put in operation. Of the latter sin an instance may be given in illustration. The knowledge becoming public property, a good number of the townsfolk would congregate together, and having placed an effigy of the object of their correction upon a donkey, they would parade the streets with loud shouts and whistling, accompanying the music with the beating of old tin cans, and then halting before the abode of their victim, would break out into a chorus after the following style :—

Sally Grime has beaten her master,
A blow with the poker on the head.
Her grumbling tongue she wags e'en faster
Than the jackdaw jibbering on the shed.

We come here now to give her warning
That unless her evil she gives o'er
Every day from the night till morning
We'll ride the stang from door to door.

The custom is now almost obsolete, though according to reports in the *North Cheshire Herald* it was carried on in Romiley as late as the "eighties."

Old observances less curious are perhaps better known and more widely talked about. The stocks were to the fore in the district as well as in other places, and more than one drunken

OLD STOCKS—GEE CROSS.

reveller has been sobered in their custody, to the music of the jeering mob accompanied by "bouquets" of rotten eggs, decayed vegetables, and other kindred missiles. In old days, also, the churchwardens paraded the parish during service to lock up all revellers and disturbers of the Sabbath peace. The beadle was wont to precede them on their journey in the full glory of his cocked hat and wand of office; and proud and stately were the

dignitaries as, in the pomp and glory of their exalted position, they went their weekly round. At one time so dreaded were the Wardens of St. George's Church, that the cry of "The Wardens are coming," was sufficient, not only to clear the streets of loafers, but even to cause women, who were engaged in cleaning their door steps, to leave the task hurriedly and seek refuge indoors.

Then there was the "watch," who woke the hours of darkness with his cry—"Three o'clock; three o'clock, and a fine frosty morning." He, too, like the beadle, has journeyed to the land of dreams.

One of the principal pastimes was the coming of the annual wakes, when the friends and relatives from a distance came to spend a day, or perhaps a week. Those were not the times of cheap excursions, and the people stayed at home at the yearly feast. The house was scoured through and through; new curtains, table-covers, and the like were purchased, and a right good English hospitality prevailed. The younger portion of the community indulged in country dancing or such other forms of amusement as were then considered seemly, and all went merry as the proverbial marriage bell, in the good old English way.

Perhaps even of greater, at all events of equal importance were the Stockport fairs which were held several times during the year. It was considered a rare treat to attend these fairs and spend the day in the adjacent borough.

An important local institution of the early years of the present century consisted in what was known as "The Werneth Low Races." Traditions and some of the older end of the population speak of famous contests on the Low, of no less famous local jockeys, and the winning of local Derbys. Mr. Robert Higham gives an account of the races in his interesting novel, "Stella," which is founded upon local life.

"The racecourse," says this writer, "was situated in a field a short distance from the Hare and Hounds, Werneth Low, and was very unlevel for races, indeed dangerous, as more than one horse met with its death and the rider with serious injury in going down a steep decline. . . The horse which won the first prize on the first day of the races, when it is estimated 6,000 people

were present, belonged to Marlors, of Newton. It was intended to make the races a permanent institution, but the great cost incurred and the comparatively small amount of public support, added to the difficulty of reaching the top of the Low either by 'Shanks' Pony' or by conveyance, brought the scheme to an end after a few years. Nevertheless the opening day was one of considerable importance in the district, for the stewards had done everything in their power to make the event a success. Mr. George Andrew, of Compstall, was at the head of affairs, backed by nearly all the millowners and gentry of the district."

The newspapers of the period were emblazoned with glowing advertisements of these local equestrian events, and to judge from appearances not only the inhabitants of Hyde but those of the neighbourhood for miles took keen interest in the contests.

CHAPTER XII.

SOME OLD TIME LEGENDS.

Listen to these wild traditions.

. . . . . .

I have read in some old marvellous tale,
Some legend weird and vague.—*Longfellow.*

PROSAIC as the district may generally appear, it is nevertheless far from lacking what is termed folk-lore. There is evidence to show that "old women's" tales found credence in the bye-gone generations, and that bogies and goblins were supposed to haunt the woods, the churchyards, and other places usually frequented by that class of beings. Superstitions held sway and it was considered unluckly to do certain things or to omit doing others. Charms were often used in cases of sickness or to ensure the gaining of some coveted object. Fairies were believed in and fortune telling flourished. In addition, there were legends of strange events which had occurred in that indefinite "once upon a time."

One legend connects the locality with the famous hero of romance, bold Robin Hood. It is asserted that on one occasion he stood on the crest of Werneth Low, and, as a trial of strength, he seized a massive rock that lay there, and hurled it westward toward the Cheshire plain. The rock fell some miles away, and may be seen to this day in the bed of the river Tame, near to Hulme's Wood and almost opposite the Ardern paper mill. It is a huge mass, almost round, perhaps over 5 feet in height, and several tons in weight, and on its surface is the rude shape of a man's hand, which is claimed to be the mark left by the grip of the sturdy forester.

ROBIN HOOD STONE.

To go further afield, there is a place called Mousey Lea in Longdendale. Tradition says there was a schoolmaster at Mousey Lea in the olden time, who was well versed in magic. On one occasion he sent two pupils to a place in Staffordshire, for some important book, which they were told not to open. The doctor's charge, however, only served to awaken curiosity, and on the journey home the pupils undid the clasp of the book with the intention of reading the secrets inscribed within, when lo! no sooner was the book undone than a terrible whirlwind arose, trees were rooted up, houses blown down, and all sorts of havoc wrought, a state of things which continued unabated until the schoolmaster, guessing the cause, went with all haste, and by magic means known alone to himself laid and pacified the evil spirit.

Mention of Longdendale leads one to remark that there are many queer traditions and tales told of the Vicars of Mottram, who form a line as long as some list of Kings or Queens. One Mottram parson is said to have been a sort of local "Vicar of Wakefield," and another is said to have had a most peculiar wife. She had a nose like a pig's snout, and ate from a silver trough,

and the phenomenon was explained as being a judgment on her mother, who prior to her birth once spake of a beggar woman and her children as "an old sow with her litter."

It would take up too much space to chronicle all the old stories of the miracles wrought, and the fabulous deeds enacted, in this locality in the romantic times of a thousand years ago. Such tales are legion and the Longdendale land especially, is redundant with them. Legends of Ambrosius, of Arthur and his knights, and of many another mythical hero, have their home in Longdendale.

Two further tales of magic concerning the neighbourhood of this valley may, however, be briefly mentioned. One of them is connected with the road known as "Doctor's Gate," and is really a localised version of the legend of "Doctor Faustus." The hero of the story, mounted on a coal-black steed, is made to ride at midnight along the "Doctor's Gate," to surrender himself to the devil, in accordance with an agreement existing between them. The local doctor, however, was in no mood for fulfilling his part of the compact, and he suggested a race with his enemy, the devil to give him a start, the prize to be his freedom if he won. The devil agreed, and the strange race started, everything going in favour of the evil one until, just as victory seemed assured, the doctor crossed a running stream, and in accordance with the laws of sorcery, the devil lost all power over him. But the strange part of the story is—and it shows the narrowness of the doctor's shave—the king of darkness managed to catch the coal-black steed by the tail, which limb, fortunately, came off, just in time to allow the animal and its rider to get the powerful force of the stream between themselves and their pursuer.

Perhaps the most popular Longdendale story is the one relative to the Stayley effigy in Mottram Church. It is said that Sir Ro, or Ralph, the knight of Stayley Hall, on leaving these parts to fight with Richard I. in the great crusade, broke his wife's wedding ring in two, and "each retaining half they swore fidelity till death." Sir Ro was captured by the Saracens and for many years imprisoned. One night he dreamed of some great evil likely to overtake his kindred at home, and so oppressed was he by the dream that, on awakening, he prayed to God to restore him to his native place. He fell asleep and shortly

afterwards again woke. But lo! the whole scene was changed, instead of a Saracen prison there was an English landscape, and before him was his old ancestral home of Stayley. The spot where he was lying was afterwards known as "Roe's Cross," a name it still retains.

The legend next goes on to state that on knocking for admittance at his gate, Sir Ro was unrecognized by the servants, who, nevertheless, according to the old laws of English hospitality, "brought him a cup of country wine and bread to eat." They further informed him that tidings having come from the Holy Land of their lord's captivity and death, their lady was about to contract a second marriage, which her friends had "forced upon her." Sir Ro, on hearing this, produced the broken half of the wedding ring above referred to, and dropping it into the cup bade the maiden take it to her mistress. The Lady of Stayley on seeing it was convinced of her husband's safety, and full of joy she sprang to greet him, all thoughts of the second union vanishing at once. "And," says tradition, "they lived happy ever after."

The concluding story is located nearer home. In the middle of the last century there lived at Hyde a celebrated Dr. Wylde (an ancestor of the Thornelys), who bore a reputation for astrology. About 1730 a great sensation was occasioned by the report that there was a boggart in Gower Hey Wood, which made awful sounds at night. The inhabitants went in a body to ask the learned doctor to lay the spirit, and this he gladly consented to do. Noticing the direction of the sound he went in broad daylight to the spot which no one else dared approach, and there found that two branches of a tree, rubbing together with the motion of the wind, gave forth the doleful sound that had scared people from the wood. Telling no one of his discovery he quickly sawed one branch off, and then gravely announced that he had laid the spirit. Needless to say, after this, that his reputation for magic was unequalled in the neighbourhood, and for years his powers were firmly believed in.

PART III.

OLD HALLS AND FAMILIES.

"Loving still these quaint old themes."

CHAPTER I.

HYDE HALL AND THE HYDES.

ROBABLY no part of the county of Chester (which Aiken in his work of a century ago, speaks of as having "preserved more of its ancient race of gentry than any other county in England,") has undergone so sad a change in recent years, as the portion of the Tame Valley in which the ancient mansion of the Hydes was formerly situated.

A work entitled "Cheshire ; Topographical, Historical, and Descriptive," published so late as 1818, describes the scene as follows :—

"Hyde Hall, the seat of Geo. Hyde Clark, Esq., a branch of the Clarendon family, is situated in a romantic spot on the banks of a small river, and surrounded with bold swelling eminences gradually sloping to the water's edge. The house is an ancient brick edifice, repaired, with a plain front. It contains several good paintings and among others an original whole length of the great Earl of Clarendon. At a little distance from the house is a neat bridge of one arch, built a few years since for the accommodation of those who frequent the valuable coal mines that are worked on this estate, which includes both sides of the Tame. A weir on the Lancashire side, formed to supply a water engine, causes the river above it to assume the appearance of a large lake, which with the cascade produced by the falling of the waters in a broad sheet to a considerable depth, adds great interest to the surrounding scenery. The grounds are tolerably well wooded and the general character of the seat is picturesque and elegant."

Butterworth, the historian, writing even later, gives much the same account, with this addition :—"Betwixt the bridge and the house is a mill for grinding corn, for the use of which . . . . . is a weir which throws a broad sheet of water to a considerable depth below, where it has worked a hole many yards deep and wide; the appearance and noise of this cascade have a romantic effect, and the river below, for half a mile, is made to appear like a lake, forming a fine piece of water well stocked with trout and eels. On each side of the river downwards from the gardens, are high banks well wooded, in which the river is lost for some space and then seen again."

Such descriptions would scarcely apply to the present aspect of the valley. The old hall is gone—not a trace of it remains; its antiquities have vanished with it; not a stone of the old corn mill is left; the river has played sad havoc with the weir; the stately woods have died out slowly, and the trout and eels have disappeared. It seems a big price to pay for our modern conveniences when a few years of so-called progress can bring about so great a transformation.

Little of an authentic character can be said respecting the early history of Hyde Hall. Like most other manor houses in its vicinity it was evidently the successor of an earlier structure built upon the same site. Old chronicles show the family of Hydes to have been settled here from a very early date, and it is only reasonable to suppose that they dwelt in a house suitable to their rank and position. There are traditions which claim that one Lord Matthew de Hyde erected a castle in these parts as far back as the 12th century.

The hall appears to have been built in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and to have been re-built about the time of the Restoration. It continued to be the residence of the manorial lords of Hyde, until it was disposed of to the Fultons, of Fulton, in Lancashire. It was demolished in the year 1857.

Local chroniclers have woven around the venerable building much that is highly romantic. It is said that the lords of the

HYDE HALL.

ARMS OF THE HYDES.

manor of Hyde lived here in the fine old English style, dispersing their hospitality in a regal manner, holding "brilliant entertainments" and "courtly" family gatherings. It is also a popular rumour that Queen Anne first saw light in Hyde Hall, and it is claimed as a fact that the two princesses of James II. frequently came down to the hall, on long visits to their relatives at Hyde.

However that may be, it is beyond all dispute that the family of Hyde is of great antiquity and corresponding fame.

ARMS OF HYDE.

Arms: Azure, a chevron between three lozenges; Or
Crest: A raven or crow, wings elevated, sable (sometimes depicted as an eagle or a hawk).

Soon after the doomsday the township belonged to the Baggeleghs, who were styled "Lords of Baguley and Hyde," but as early as the days of King John, we find one moiety in the possession of a family bearing the local name De Hyde. Sir William de Baggelegh, who was living in the early part of the 14th century, left (on the death of his son John de Baggelegh without issue) his two daughters as co-heiresses. One of these, Ellen, married Sir John Legh, of Booths, ancestor of the Leghs of Baguley and Adlington; the other, named Isabella, as shown later, married John de Hyde, of Hyde and Norbury, whose descendants succeeded to a moiety or half the manor of Hyde. It appears from an inquisition that this moiety was held under the Leghs of Baguley.

Matthew de Hyde, who lived in the 12th century, and who is thought by some to have been descended from the De Bromales, seems to have been the first Lord of the house of Hyde. He had issue a son, Robert de Hyde, frequently referred to as Sir Robert, who married the heiress of Thomas de Norbury, and thus acquired the manor of Norbury, Newton, and other lands in Derbyshire. This Robert is described as "Lord of half of Hyde, and of Newton or part thereof, in Cheshire; Shalecross and Fernely in Derbyshire, and Haughton and Denton, in Lancashire.

Some authorities imagine it was the Robert of the next generation—son of the above Robert—who formed the Union with the heiress of the Norburys, but Ormerod is inclined to believe that it was the father who contracted the marriage. There is the greater likelihood of this being so, as the second Robert certainly married Margery, whose father, Sir Robert de Stokeport, gave to "Robert, son of Robert de Hyde, in frank marriage with her," lands in Bredbury. Sometime near the end of the reign of Henry III., the son of the above Sir Robert de Stokeport exchanged certain lands in Romelegh, with Robert de Hyde, for these frank marriage lands. Moreover, according to Ormerod—though Earwaker has a note disputing this—the second Robert seems to have married as a first or second wife, Alice de Hyde, daughter of William, son of Elias de Hyde, and he would also appear to have had an elder brother John, who as son of "*Agnes de Herdisle, cousin and heiress of Thomas de Norbury, quit claims to Robert his right in Norbury, Newton, and half of Hyde.*"

Robert de Hyde, who witnessed the Stockport charter, was succeeded by his eldest son, Sir Robert de Hyde, who married Margery, daughter of Sir Robert de Stokeport, and was the father of two sons, John and Alexander. The first-born, known as John del Hyde, succeeded to the estates, and Alexander became the progenitor of the Hydes of Denton, settling on an estate which his father had given him on the Lancashire side of the river Tame. This same Alexander had grants from his brother of all the latter's lands in Romiley and Denton.

John del Hyde obtained, by fine, of Robert, son of Richard de Dewsnap and Hawis his wife, 17 acres in Hyde. In the reign of Edward II. he is found obtaining by fine, of William de Ruylegh, Chaplain, the manor of Norbury, and the other moiety of the manor of Hyde. He married as his second wife Isabella, daughter of Sir William de Baggelegh, and in connection with the union the following passage is found in the Hyde deeds :—"I, William, lord of Baguley, have given to John de Hyde in frank marriage with Isabella my daughter, and to heirs of their bodies, a weir for their mills in Halghton upon the river Tame, whenever they chose to make it within the boundaries of Hyde."

From the union with Isabel Baggelegh there was issue John de Hyde, who was knighted before 1353. He served with the

Black Prince in the wars of the period, and was engaged, under the banners of the Earl of Chester, fighting the cause of England at the battle of Poictiers in 1356, when John, the King of France, was made prisoner of war. Sir John Hyde is chronicled as having led seventy-one archers to the king's wars. This warrior married (either Margery, daughter of Sir Thomas de Davenport, of Wheltrough, or as some give it, Margaret, daughter of Sir John de Davenport), and through his fourth son Ralph, became the ancestor of the Hydes of Urmston. He sold his interests in the manors and lands of Shallcrosse, Godlegh, Newton, Fernelegh, Heigham, and Heiton.

After the death of Sir John Hyde the lands and manorial rights of Hyde passed to his third son, Robert de Hyde. Robert was heir to his brother William, the second son, who in turn was most probably heir to the eldest son Roger. William is thought to have married the daughter and heiress of Sir John Davenport, of Bramhall, and most likely died without surviving issue, hence the succession devolved on the third son Robert.

Robert de Hyde appointed Thomas de Stavelegh, of Staveley, as his attorney for his manors of Norbury and half of Hyde. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert de Stavelegh, and had a son Robert de Huyde, so styled in the spelling of the day, who was wounded at Nether Alderley. This Robert de Huyde was followed by his son, John de Hyde, lord of Norbury in the time of Henry VI.

John de Hyde married Matild, daughter of Hamon de Masci, of Rixon.

Their heir was Hamon or Hamnet Hyde, of Norbury and Hyde, who died before 1476, and was eventually succeeded by his second son, Thomas Huyde heir to the elder brother John. Thomas married a daughter of — Kniveton, of Underwood. He was exempted from serving on juries, August, 1511. In 1542, we find Robert de Hyde, the son of Thomas, in possession.

Robert de Hyde was thrice married, first to Margaret, the daughter of Richard Holland, of Denton, by whom he had two sons, Hamnet and John, and one daughter, Agnes, who became the wife of John Arden. By his second union, with the daughter

of Robert Skargill, of London—some have it by a third marriage with the daughter of — Boydell, of Pulcroft—he had a son, Lawrence, who settled in West Hatch. Henry Hyde, the son of this Lawrence, was the father of Edward Hyde, the great Earl of Clarendon, who was the father of Ann Hyde, the Queen of James II. and the grandfather of the two succeeding reigning Queens, Mary and Anne.

The ancestral estates passed to the family of Hamnet Hyde (the eldest son and heir, who had married Margaret, daughter of Lawrence Warren, of Poynton). Hamnet dying during his father's lifetime, transmitted the rights to his son Robert, who married as his first or second wife, Margaret, daughter of John Dukinfield, Esq., of Dukinfield. The inquisition of Robert Hyde was taken as follows:—

Inq. P. M. 13 Eliz. Robert Huyde, Esq., held the manor of Norbury, also a moiety of the manor of Huyde and 8 messuages: 600 acres of land, 40 of meadow, 40 of pasture, 20 of wood, 20 of moor, and 10 of turbary therein, of Edward Leigh, Esq., of Bagalegh, as socage, and by yearly rent service of 4s. Val. p. a. £11 16s. 2d. Died January 17th last. Robert Huyde, son and heir, aged 28 on the Feast of the Annunciation of Blessed Virgin, Mary last.

Robert Hyde, the heir mentioned in the inquisition, married Beatrice, daughter of Sir William Calverly, of Calverly, York, and had fourteen children. He died in 1614, and was buried at Stockport. His inquisition runs as under:—

Inq. P.M. 18 Jac 1. Robert Hyde held the manor of Norbury, also half the manor of Hyde, and the messuages and lands aforesaid of Robert Leigh, Esq., as of his manor of Baguley in socage by fealty and a rent of 6d. Val. P.A. £5. Died at Norbury, March 22. 11 Jac 1. Hamnet Hyde, son and heir, aged 55 years.

Hamnet Hyde, who was 55 years old at the time of his father's inquisition, married at Prestbury, in 1583, Margaret, daughter of John Warren, of Poynton. He died in May, 1643, being nearly 80 years of age. His son Robert, married to Margaret, grand-daughter of Sir Edward Fitton, of Gawsworth, pre-deceased his father, dying in 1642.

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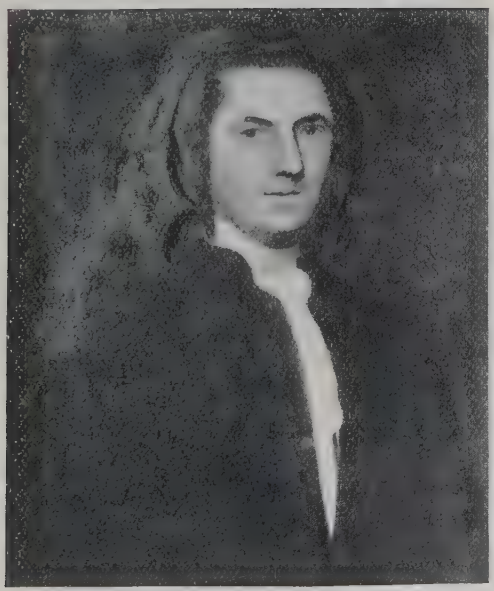
Edward Hyde, son of Robert Hyde (who died 1642), and grandson and heir of the last named, Hamnet, took an active part on the side of Parliament in the great Civil War, and is frequently met with in company with Colonel Dukinfield. He married Anne, daughter of Sir Richard Brooke, of Norton Priory, and he it was who restored Hyde Hall, and placed in the centre of the chimney-piece of the panelled great room, the arms of Hyde quartered with Brooke, noted both in Ormerod and Earwaker. These arms are now in possession of John Clarke, Esq., of Oswestry.

Edward Hyde died in April, 1669, and was buried on the 13th of that month at Stockport. His son Robert, who succeeded him, died the following year, and was also interred at Stockport. Edward Hyde, the only son of the last named, sold

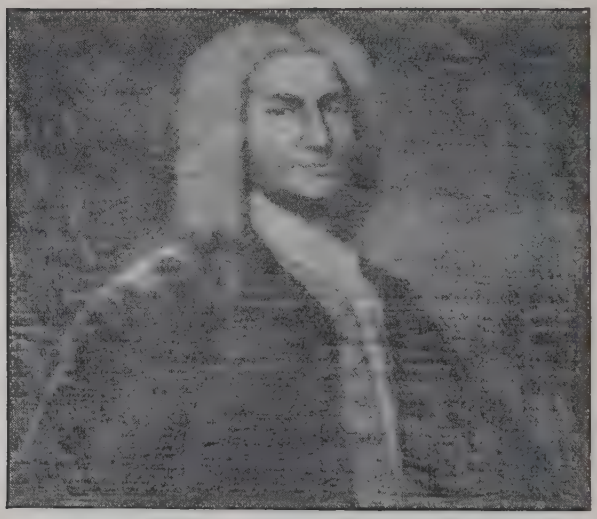


EDWARD HYDE, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA.

the Norbury and other estates, and then went to America, having been appointed Governor of North Carolina, where he is supposed

to have died. He married, and had two sons and two daughters, Anne and Penelope. Both the sons died unmarried, and thus the direct male line of the Hydes terminated.

The elder daughter, Anne, however, married, in 1714, George Clarke, of Swanswick, near Bath, and afterwards went to America with her husband, who became Lieutenant Governor of New York. She died at New York, and is described as "a lady greatly beloved, at whose death minute-guns were fired off all the day of her funeral, and loaves of bread given to all the poor of of the neighbourhood." The husband died at Chester, 1760, and

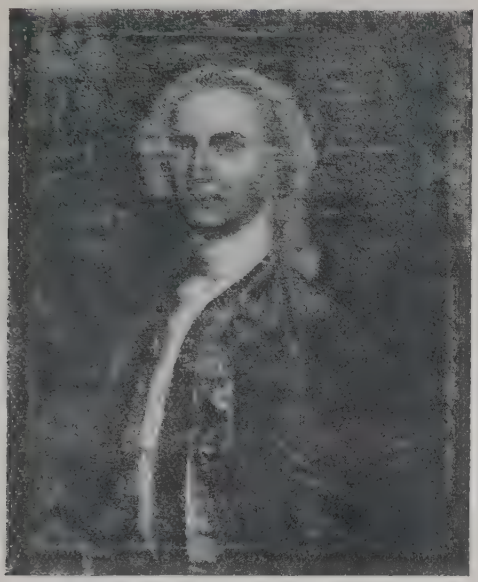


GEORGE CLARKE, GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK.

is buried in the Cathedral, where a tablet is erected to his memory. The inscription is surmounted by the crest and motto:—

Soyez Ferme
To the memory of
George Hyde Clarke, of Hyde, Esquire,
Who was formerly Lieutenant Governor of New York,
and afterwards became resident in this city.
He died Jan. xii., MDCCLX.,
Aged LXXXIV. years,
And was interred in this Chapel.

Mr. Clarke, by an arrangement of purchase with his brother-in-law shortly before the latter's death, had the estates transferred to him, to prevent a lawsuit with Sergeant Bretland, of Thorncliffe Hall, who for a time held the Hyde estates as mortgagee.



GEO. CLARKE, SECRETARY AT NEW YORK.

Of the offspring of the above union the eldest was George Clarke, of Hyde and Swanswick, who was born at New York, in 1715. He lived for a time in America and became Secretary at New York. Coming to England in 1737 he was presented to the King at Hampton Court, and is said to have offered His Majesty £1,000 on condition that his father was appointed to succeed Lord Delawar as Governor. After his return from America, he lived at Hyde Hall taking a great interest in agriculture, and is said to have introduced into the neighbourhood the method of trimming fences known as "the Hogmane fence." George Clarke died without issue, and was buried in Stockport Church in the same vault with his younger brother Edward.

MAJOR EDWARD CLARKE.

Edward Clarke, brother of the above George Clarke, was an officer in the army. He married the daughter of one Phillip Haughton, of Jamaica, and thus derived large estates in that island. Edward died at Buxton, in 1776, and was interred in the parish church at Stockport (the mother church of this district). A monument in the church records the following :—

Near this place
By permission of Peter Legh, of Lyme, Esq., were interred
the remains of
George Clarke, of Hyde estates,
who died 11th November, 1777,
aged 62 years.
And also of Edward Clarke, Esq., his younger brother,
who died 6th of September, 1776, at Buxton,
Aged 60 years,
being the elder branches of the family of the Hydes of Hyde and
Norbury.

Edward Clarke having pre-deceased his elder brother, his son George Hyde Clarke came into the Hyde, Haughton, and Jamaica estates on the death of his uncle without issue, in 1777.

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GEORGE HYDE CLARKE.

This George Hyde Clarke, born in 1742, lived principally in Jamaica. He was J.P. for the counties Cheshire and Lancashire. He died in London, and was buried in Denton Churchyard, July 16th, 1824. On his tombstone there is this inscription :—

"George Hyde Clarke, late of Hyde in the County of Chester, Esquire.

During his lifetime a constant attender at this chapel, and a liberal contributor to its repairs, died in London, July 5th, 1824 ; and agreeably to his own special direction was here interred on the 16th day of July following.

George Hyde Clarke married Catherine, the daughter of Robert Hussey, of Denore, Ireland (she survived her husband several years), by whom he had two sons, George, born in 1768, and Edward, born in 1770.

George Clarke, born 1768, the eldest son of Geo. Hyde Clarke, succeeded to the estates. He resided chiefly at Hyde Hall, Otsego, America. He married the daughter and heiress of General Rochefort, the nephew of Lord Belvidere. She was a lady of great beauty and died at Brighton in 1861, at the age of 93 years.

They had three sons and two daughters. The eldest son was drowned with his wife and family at sea in 1825, and the succession devolved upon the second son Edward Hyde-Clarke. The youngest son, George Rochefort Clarke, married in 1830, the daughter of Henry, grandson of the third Lord Byron. He was a barrister by profession, and famous as an author of works on religious questions. In 1887 he married as a second wife Alice Louisa Collins, of Norwich. He died without issue in 1889.

Edward Hyde Clarke, who succeeded to the estates, lived chiefly at Leamington. He was a friend of Napoleon III. to whom he gave introduction at Manchester, when the Emperor, as Prince Louis Napoleon Bonaparte, visited the city in 1832. Mr Hyde-Clarke was much interested in the affairs of Jamaica. He was of a kind and generous disposition and was greatly esteemed by his tenants in Hyde. He married first Georgina Catherine Theresa O'Moran, grand daughter of Dorothy, Countess of Macclesfield, who died in 1853 without issue. He then married Maria Ann, daughter of Thomas Wade, Esq., of Fairfield, County Galway, Ireland, and dying on the 26th of December, 1873, at his residence, Hatherly Brake, near Cheltenham, he left her a widow without issue and bequeathed the estates to her, leaving them at her disposal to will as she liked. This lady it is who owns the manor at the present time. Mrs. Hyde-Clarke is a liberal supporter of philanthropic movements in various portions of the country.

The next male head of the house in point of descent is Edward Clarke, Esq., of Omaha, America, who is descended from Edward, the second son of George Hyde-Clarke and Catherine Hussey, (see above).

Edward Clarke, younger son of George Hyde Clarke and Catherine Hussey, was born 1770, and baptized first at Lyons, in France, and afterwards at Denton. He was M.P. for Wooton in 1796, and married first Ann, daughter of General Prevost, and secondly in 1822, Sarah Russ. He had three sons, Edward, Hamnet Hyde (who died without male issue in 1850), and Tanner Owen.

Edward, born in 1823, married, when very young, Sarah Sage, of Swanswick, and left an infant son, Edward Clarke, born in 1841, the present male representative of the Hyde Clarke family,

now living at Omaha, Nebraska, U.S.A. Mr. Clarke has a daughter, Francis Hyde, but no sons. In case of his dying without male issue, his successor as male head of the family is Edward Hyde Clarke, of Wrentham House, Suffolk, the son of the above-named Tanner Owen, who took the name of Hyde when in America. This gentleman married in 1878, and has issue Lionel Edward Hyde Clarke, born 1879.

In concluding this article we cannot but express regret that the enlightened eighteenth century should have irrecoverably swept away the ancient manorial hall of Hyde. It is a pity that such honoured landmarks of the past cannot be preserved to delight the eyes of unborn generations. But the hall is not the only "link with the past" that has disappeared.

It will interest many to know that at the top of "Dark Lane" there originally stood some "white gates," barring the entrance of what was formerly the drive down to the hall. In old times there was an avenue of Scotch firs all the way down, and the lane got the name of "Dark Lane" owing to the deep shade and sombre tone which the trees imparted to it.

Mr. John Clarke, son of Captain Clarke, a short time ago sent to the writer the following story, which is given in his own words—

I remember fully 70 years ago, an old servant of ours saying—"When I was a lad in the gardens under the old squire I was afraid to be sent into Hyde after dark, up that *Dark Lane*. From the 'ten houses' (now in Market Street and the original Red Pump Street of Hyde) to Gee Cross there were only three farmhouses, one of them paid an annual chief rent of one coupon, one leveret, and four barleycorns to the Hyde estate."

A further item of interest is an old Bible now in the possession of the widow of George Rochefort Clarke, Esq., which contains the following inscription—

"This Bible was the Right Honourable Edward Earl of Clarendon's, now Penelope Hyde's, the gift of the Honourable George Clarke, Governor of the Province of New York, Anno Domini 1741."

An old inventory of some paintings formerly belonging to the hall gives the following :—

"On the staircase—1. Lord Chancellor Hyde in half length, by Sir Peter Lely (as supposed).—2. A fine Dutch portrait, formerly belonging to a Governor of Surinam, who was lost at sea ; saved out of the wreck and

brought to New York to be sold, where it was bought by George Clarke, Esq., the governor; it is a half-length. 3. A half-length portrait of George Clarke, Esq., Governor of New York, by Fellows, of Chester. In a lodging room below stairs a curious three-quarter picture of Lady Corbett, by C. Jansen, signed J. C. Fecit, 1619. In a servants' room an old Dutch head marked H.K."

The writer of the "History of Swanswick" points out an interesting fact, viz., that "the various streets and squares in Hyde bear the names of every member of the Hyde and Hyde Clarke family that have existed from the time of Matthew de Hyde to the late Rochefort Clarke who died in 1889."

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CHAPTER II.

THE HYDES OF DENTON.

ON the Lancashire side of the River Tame (perhaps a mile as the crow flies from the site of Hyde Hall, Hyde), is a fine specimen of mediæval architecture, of the black and white half-timbered order, known as Hyde Hall, Denton. This hall is situated in the township of Denton, and stands well out in the fields and woods, in a position so delightful as to lead one to forget, for a time, the proximity of towns and mills, works and chimneys, or anything so unpicturesque and prosaic. In the summer its quaint old gables are well-nigh hidden by the woodland which surrounds it, and which a merciful modern progress has so far left unharmed. Opposite the structure, but across the river, stand the ruined towers of Arden Hall, and there are other remnants of antiquity near.

The old Hall of the Hydes of Denton is by no means a ruin; nor is it altogether denuded of its former glory. It passed into the hands of a stout yeoman family early in the present century, and is now used as a farm; but its outward appearance is still somewhat as it was of yore, and well calculated to attract a lover of the beautiful and the manor houses of other days.

The Hall has evidently been erected at two distinct periods. The oldest portion is of considerable antiquity, probably dating so far back as the 13th century. This portion contains the principal and entertaining rooms, and, as before stated, is built in the picturesque half-timbered style so favoured at that period. The best description of the hall is given by Mr. Booker, who

wrote to the Chetham Society's publications some years ago. He says in his description :—"There is a projected bay of two stories on the east side, the upper story projecting somewhat beyond the lower, a peculiarity frequently to be observed in timbered houses erected during the latter period of this style. . . . . The chief entrance is by a covered porch at the west front, running the entire depth of the building. This porch, as well as that portion of the hall immediately adjacent towards the south, is constructed of dressed masonry, and has been erected at a period subsequent to that part of the building already described,

HYDE HALL, DENTON.

as is evidenced by the date (1625) which appears in front. Over the gateway is a shield bearing the arms of the Hydes, and beneath the date 1625 ; above this is the porch chamber, lighted in front by a large square window of five lights, divided horizontally by a transom, and on either side by a single light window transomed, the whole terminating in a parapet with moulding coping. The interior has undergone considerable changes since its erection, and presents little to call for observation, if we except the principal room, the hall, which still remains in a tolerable state of preservation, though unappropriated, in the hands of the present tenant, a farmer, the parties widely differing from those for which it was first built. It is of fair proportions, being about 21ft. by 24ft., and almost 10ft. in height, lighted on the west by two modern windows of two lights, and

originally on the east by an oriel or bay, already noticed in the description of the exterior. The walls of this bay, as well as of the Hall itself, are covered with wainscotting disposed in panels. The oriel, that almost inseparable feature of the banquetting hall, was divided from the hall by a partition of oak, and entered by an open doorway. The fireplace, deeply recessed, is comparatively of large proportions, being upwards of 11ft. in length. The ceiling is plain, divided into compartments by longitudinal and transverse beams, differed with a plain chamfer upon the edge."

The Hydes of Denton were descended from Alexander, a younger son of the Lord of the Manor of Hyde, to whom was granted, at his marriage, certain lands and appurtenances in Denton (see account of the Hydes, of Hyde). They were settled at Denton in the reign of Edward I., and were still found there after seventeen descents in the middle of the 17th century. (In passing it may be recorded that a branch of the Hydes, of Hyde and Norbury, were connected with Haughton so far back as the time of Edward IV., a connection which did not cease until 1821, when the estates were disposed of to the late Mr. Lowe, of Shepley Hall, whose relatives the Sidebothams now possess them. From this branch the Hydes of Ardwick are said to have descended).

There is little of interest known concerning the earlier members of this Denton branch of the Hydes. In the 17th century, two successive heads of the family left rather curious wills, which are given in the Chetham Society's Publications, and copies of which are here appended.

By his will bearing date September 13, 1639, William Hyde of Denton, gentlemen, "Considering the infirmenes of his bodie, together with his old age and frailty of this transitory life" makes the following disposition of his estate, &c. First he willingly and with a free heart renders and gives again into the hands of his Lord God and Creator, his soul and spirit which He of His goodness gave unto him when He first fashioned him in his mother's womb, making him a living and reasonable creature, nothing doubting but that He (for His infinite goodness and mercy set forth in the precious blood of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ his only Saviour and Redeemer) will receive his soul into His Kingdom there to enjoy in his presence fulness of joy for evermore, together with all the company of heavenly angels and blessed saints. And as concerning his body, even with a good will and free heart he commends it to that dust from whence it came, nothing doubting that according to the articles of his faith, at the great day of the general resurrection, when all shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ, he shall then receive the same

again (through that mighty power of God his Father, wherewith He is able to subdue all things to Himself) not of corruptible mortal, weak, and vile body as now it is, but an incorruptible, immortal, strong and perfect body like unto the glorious body of his blessed Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus. And for and concerning his worldly goods, etc., etc., he disposes of them as follows :—Among other legacies he gave to the poor of Denton 20s., and to the poor of Stockport 40s. This will was proved at Chester, January 8th, 1639. An inventory of his "goods and chattels," priced and valued at his death gives a total of £898 4s. 4d. Imp. One gelding £8. It. In husbandry mare £10 8s. 6d. It. In Armour £8. It. In two pairs of virginals £3. It. In two green carpets £1 10s. It. In 18 queshiom £1. It. In debt owing to him £564, etc."

A similar formal resignation of his body to Almighty God was made by William Hyde's successor, Robert Hyde in 1682 In his will of that date he says :—

July 1, 1682, "Robt. Hyde, of Denton, in the parish of Manchester and county of Lancaster, being aged in body, but of sound and perfect memory (praise be given to Almighty God for the same), calling to mind the uncertain estate of this transitory life, and that all flesh must yield to death when it shall please God to call, and being desirous to settle things in order that so peace, unity, and good agreement may be and remain among his children after his decease, disposes of his estate, etc., as follows :—Being penitent and sorry from the bottom of his heart for his sins past, most humbly desiring forgiveness of the same, he gives and commits his soul unto Almighty God, his Creator, surely believing that he shall receive full pardon and free remission for all his sins, and be saved by the precious death and merits of his blessed Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ—and his body to the earth, from whence it was taken, to be buried (in his burying place at Denton Chapel) in such decent and Christian manner as his executors shall determine—in certain hope of a joyful resurrection and eternal life. And as to the settling of his temporal estate, and such goods and chattels as it has pleased God far above his deserts to bestow upon him, he orders, gives, and bestows of the same as follows :—That is to say, whereas he, the said Robert Hyde, and Alice, his late wife, deceased, being seised of an inheritance of one-eighteenth part of several messuages, cottages, tenements, lands, and premises, situate in Crompton, Oldham, and Whetston Hill, in the county of Lancaster, did, in and by an indenture bearing date August 14, 1660, convey and assure unto Wm. Bell, of Huyton, in the county of Lancaster, clerk, John Wordsworth, of Swayth Hall, in the county of York, gentleman, William Hyde and Samuel Hyde, his sons, Thos. Lees, of Denton, and John Johnson, of Haughton, in the county of Lancaster, yeomen of the aforesaid, one-eighteenth part to such uses and purposes as is therein mentioned, in which indenture there is a certain limitation that they, the said William Bell, &c., shall and may at any time after the decease of the said Robert Hyde, and Alice, his wife, grant, bargain, and sell all the one-eighteenth part unto the use of any person whatsoever for the best price or prices ; and the moneys received thereby shall be disposed of and

distributed unto and amongst the daughters of the said Robert Hyde, and his wife Alice, which shall be living at the decease, to the survival of the two which shall be unmarried and not preferred, or, if married, and her or their portion not paid at the time of the death of the said Robert Hyde, in such proportion as is to be determined by the said Robert Hyde, during his life, or by Alice, his wife. . . . . Now for the settling of his temporal estate before mentioned, and in his power reserved, together with all the rest of his goods and chattels, he orders and bequeaths the same as follows: His debts, funeral expenses, and legacies shall be paid out of his whole estate, and forasmuch as he has already advanced and preferred with considerable portions and sums of money to his sons and daughters (except the two daughters Grace and Elizabeth Hyde). He therefore gives and bequeaths to the said Grace and Elizabeth, his loving daughters, all and the above mentioned one-eighteenth part of the said messuages, &c., and all the moneys to be raised thereby, equally to be divided; and also he bequeaths to his said daughters, Grace and Elizabeth, £500, to be paid in yearly sums of £50, during the term of ten years next ensuing after his decease, at the feast days of St. John the Baptist and St. Martin, the Bishop in Winter. To his loving son, Robert Hyde, he bequeaths his signet of gold, his silver tobacco box with his coat of arms upon it, and his pocket pistol; also it is his will and mind that his said son, Robert, shall have and enjoy all the presses which are fixed in his (testator's) mansion house, the couch chair in the hall, the couch chair in the parlour, the three tables in the hall, the brewing pan, and all the chairs and stools in the parlour and hall (after his daughters Grace and Elizabeth have taken unto themselves two of the best); also it is his will and mind that his son, Robert Hyde, shall have all his leases, rolls of pedigree, and coat of arms belonging to his estate during his natural life, and after his death, in default of heirs male, he bequeaths the same to his son, William Hyde, during his life; also it is his will that his son, Robert Hyde, shall have such of his books as he hath need of, at a reasonable price, when they are to be sold. Also he gives to his son, William Hyde, his silver signet, and all his plate, buttons, and £5 in money, and the counterpart of the conveyance which he (testator) has in his keeping. Also he gives to his daughter Grace his silver signet, sent to him by Mr. John Newton, and his watch. Also he gives to his grandchildren 5s. apiece. Also to his servants 3s. 4d. apiece. All the rest of his goods and chattels he gives to his said daughters, Grace and Elizabeth, equally to be divided. Lastly he appoints his trusted and well beloved son, William Hyde, to be executor. Proved at Chester, June 19th, 1684." The inventory of his "goods and chattels" returns the value at £328 8s. 6d. It includes the following items:—Imp. In purse and apparel £15. It. In silver plate £22. It. In books £20. It. In watch 6s. 8d. It. In gold signet £2. It. Virginials 6s. 8d.

Further information respecting this family is given in the account of an old Bible, dealt with in a later chapter.

The above Robert Hyde was famous as a zealous puritan, and for his active participation in the religious controversies of his day. He also became noted for the part he took with the Parliament against Charles I. When, in 1642, Lord Strange laid siege to Manchester, Robert Hyde, along with others of the neighbouring gentry, armed his servants and dependents and marched to the relief of the town. He successfully opposed the proposal of Colonel Holland and others who suggested the surrender of the place, and assisted in the discomfiture of the royalists. He died in 1684, in the 80th year of his age, and was interred at Denton Chapel.

This zealot, who was the most distinguished member of the Hydes of Denton, was succeeded by his son, Robert, who in turn was succeeded by his son, also a Robert. The last-named dying in 1699, left as his heiress, a daughter who married Sir Ralph Assheton, Bart., of Middleton, and the Denton estates subsequently fell to the lot of Catherine, daughter of this Sir Ralph Assheton. She married one Thomas Lister, of Arnolds-bigging, York, and became the ancestress of Thomas Lister, Lord Ribblesdale. Subsequently the Denton estates of the Hydes were sold to the Hultons, of Hulton Park, and in 1813 they passed by purchase from that family to Mr. Frank Woodiwiss, of Manchester.

Fortunately for the district the present owners have not deemed it a matter of life and death, to despoil and disfigure the old hall which has come to them from the past. They have left it standing as a silent record of the brave days of old, something for the people of our own and future times to look upon with reverence and pride.

CHAPTER III.

DUKINFIELD HALL AND THE DUKINFIELDS.

NE of the most interesting buildings in the district is the Old Hall at Dukinfield, which for several centuries was the residence of the Dukinfield family. It is a large half-timbered house, and was erected in the reign of Henry VII., in the picturesque style of that period. It continued to be the residence of the lords of the manor of Dukinfield until the middle of the last century, when Dukinfield Lodge was built. Attached to the hall is a chapel (the successor of an earlier building which was licensed in 1398 by the Bishop of Lichfield) which, although included, in the 17th century, as a chapel of ease to the parish of Stockport, seems to have been used solely as a domestic chapel for the Lord of the Manor. Some of the Dukinfields were buried in the chapel, and their gravestones still remain, notifying the fact that there rest the bodies of Sir Robert Dukinfield, Bart., who died 1729; Susanna, his daughter, who died 1722; and Martha, another daughter, who died in 1723. In 1644, the use of the chapel was granted by Colonel Dukinfield to the Independents or Congregationalists.

The first known member of the Dukinfield family seems to have been Robert de Dukenfelt, who lived in the 13th century.

There is a mention of one Hamo de Dokenfeld before the year 1300. In the 14th century there is a fine levied between Robert de Dokenfeld and William de Stokeport, chaplain, concerning the manors of Dukinfield and Brinnington, by which the said manors were settled upon Robert for life, with remainder to his heirs, etc.

John de Dokenfeld, son of Robert, died in 1401. His inquisition post mortem states that—"John de Dokenfeld died the Saturday next after the feast of St. John the Baptist, and that Robert, the son of Thurstan de Dokenfeld is next of kin and next heir."

DUKINFIELD HALL.

Feuds evidently existed about this time, between the Dokenfelds and others in the neighbourhood. Robert Dokenfeld, son of Thurstan, occurs in 1434 as recognizer to keep the peace toward Hamo de Masey, of Rixon, and in 1437, in £200 that he, and his son John, would keep the peace towards Sir Lawrence Wareyn, Chevaler. There would appear to have been some connection of the Dokenfelds with the Foljamb family of Wormhill; and Ormerod, who chronicles the above, gives the collateral ancestor of Robert, son of Thurstan, as Abbot of Basingwark in 1356.

In 1403 the Robert who is mentioned in the above inquisition was appointed one of the Commissioners to enquire by jury of the Hundred of Macclesfield, concerning "the spread of false rumour to the disquiet of the people of Cheshire, and to array all men capable of bearing arms in the said Hundred." Robert's son, John de Dokenfeld, was appointed a

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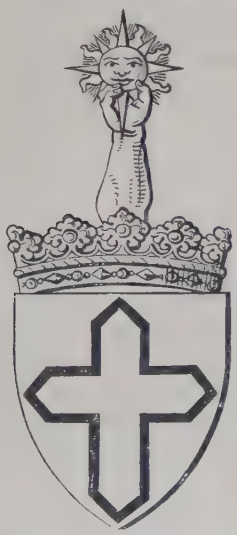
collector of a subsidy in the same Hundred in 1465, and in 1468 had an exemption from serving on juries.

Robert Dokenfeld, son of the last named John de Dokenfeld, succeeded to the estate on the death of his father. About 1528, John Dukynfeld, grandson of Robert, died leaving his son Robert as heir. This last Robert died before 1549. His inquisition P.M. 3 Edward VI. states that "Robert Dokenfeld held the manor of Dokenfeld (39 mess, 200 acres of land, 40 of meadow, 200 of pasture, 100 of wood and underwood, 200 of moor and marsh therein, also manor of Brynnyngton alias Portwood) from the king in capite by military service and the render of iis. viiid. Value of Dokenfeld xviL. (and of the mess and lands of Dokenfeld £36 12s. 4d.) The value of Brynnyngton being £13 6s. 8d. and lands there £11 4s. 1d., also in Stockport 12 mess 67 acres of the king, in capite by knights service, also lands in Baguley and Eggeley. Value total lxxxvL. viiis. xid. Died Sept. 20th last, William Dokenfeld, son and heir, aged 14, and unmarried." There was a will dated March 23rd, 1546, by which Robert Dokenfeld Armiger "gives William Dokenfeld, my sonne and heire my greit twoo edged sword and my lesse twoo edged sword w^{ch} I do weare my self, wth my grete new buckler and my short armying sword, wth my dagger w^{ch} is garnished with silver and also my batell axe," etc., etc. (*Ormerod*).



ARMS OF DUKINFIELD 1538.

William Dokenfeld, styled "one of the grooms of the King's Privie Chamber," in 1551, was buried at Stockport in 1592. He was succeeded by his second son Robert, who married in 1593, Jane, one of the daughters and co-heiresses of Richard Holland, of Denton. This Robert was buried at Stockport, 29th December, 1621. His successor, also a Robert Duckenfield, died in 1630, leaving a will in which he mentions Stockport as the burial place of his ancestors, also his mills and "cole" pits and his "decenster house commonly called Portwoode Hall." He left as heir a son, Robert, then eleven years of age.

Robert Duckenfield, the heir (baptised in 1619), eventually became the most famous member of the Dukinfield family. He was the Colonel Duckenfield of the Great Rebellion. He joined Sir William Breerton's party at the outbreak of the Civil War, and when 24 years of age was one of the Commissioners for Cheshire, for sequestrating the estates of delinquents, and for raising money for Parliament. He is frequently mentioned as a commander in the petty fights which took place in the north. In February, 1643-4, he attacked and took Wythenshaw Hall, and on May 25th, 1644, he commanded the forces sent to guard Stockport, and to prevent Prince Rupert's march through Lancashire. In the winter of 1644-5 Colonel Duckenfield, appears to have served with his troops at the siege of Beeston Castle, and was much pressed at this time for money to pay his men. In 1648 he was appointed one of the Commissioners for the trial of the King, and in 1650 was High Sheriff of Cheshire. As Governor of Chester, in 1651, he summoned the Court Martial for the trial of the Earl of Derby. In the spring of 1651 he was made Governor of the forces for the Isle of Man, which was at that time held by the heroic Countess of Derby, who, being deserted by the inhabitants, surrendered to him.

Colonel Duckenfield was returned as member for Cheshire to the short Parliament of 1653, and was appointed, by Cromwell, one of the Council of State. He was also invited by the Protector to join the Government, but declined the offer. His letter to Cromwell, concerning this refusal, is a most remarkable epistle. It shows that there was at least one Cheshire leader who was not blind to, nor yet afraid to point out, the ambition of Cromwell, and the defects in his character. After declining to take any office, the letter concludes by warning Cromwell of the increasing "distaste for himself and his measures," and of "the correspondingly increasing desire for the restoration of Charles Stuart." The epistle evidently did not suit the Cromwell faction, for ever afterwards Duckenfield was bitterly distrusted by the Protector and his friends.

Colonel Duckenfield, in 1659, helped to suppress the Cheshire rising of Sir George Booth. After the Restoration he was tried, with Henry Bradshaw and others, for having taken part in the trial and execution of Lord Derby. For some time he was detained in prison on a charge of being concerned in an attempt

to seize the King and Tower, to put to death the Queen and her attendants, and to restore Parliament. He was liberated eventually, and spent the remainder of his days in retirement, dying on September 21st, 1689. He was buried at Denton Chapel.

Robert Dukinfield, eldest son of the Colonel, was created a baronet in 1665, and was High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1675. He died in 1729, on the 6th of November, aged 87. Sir Robert was succeeded by his second son, Sir Charles Dukinfield, who was succeeded by his son William, who took the additional surname of Daniel on inheriting the estates of his great uncle, Sir S. Daniel, of Tabley.

Sir Wm. Dukinfield-Daniel, the third baronet, was High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1751. Subsequently, through the marriage of his widow, Penelope, daughter of Henry Vernon, of Hilton, with John Astley, Esq., the estates of the Dukinfields fell into the possession of the Astleys ; and were henceforth separated from the Dukinfield family, whose members ceased to have connection with the place from which their name was derived.

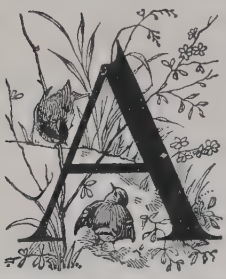
The Dukinfield title, however, did not die with the transfer of the estates. The baronetcy passed to the third holder's cousin, Sir Samuel Dukinfield, of Bristol, son of the surviving brother of Sir Charles Dukinfield. The fourth baronet died without male issue in 1768, and the title passed to a distant relative, Nathaniel, a descendant of Sir Robert (the first baronet), by a second wife. Sir Nathaniel Dukinfield died in 1824. His eldest son, a captain in the 7th Dragoons, having predeceased his father, the second son, Sir John Lloyd Dukinfield, succeeded as the sixth baronet.

Dying unmarried, Sir John was succeeded by a younger brother, the Rev. Sir Henry Robert Dukinfield, Bart., who died in 1858. Sir Henry, the seventh baronet, was the last male representative of the Dukinfields, and upon his death the name and title became extinct.

The Astley estates have become famous for their mineral wealth. An account of the Astley family is given in the records of Dukinfield township.

CHAPTER IV.

THE BREDBURYS AND ARDENS, WITH THREE ANCIENT HALLS.



RDEN Hall, or Harden, as it was formerly written, is pleasantly situated upon the crest of a hill, overlooking the valley of the Tame, between Hyde and Stockport. The position commands an extensive prospect of the surrounding country. The hall is now in ruins, but sufficient of it still stands to attest to its former strength and greatness, and to form a pretty picture which the country side could ill afford to lose. The old watch-towers and the castellated walls, the remains of the state rooms (for the most part roofless), and the dry and half-filled moat, are the elements of one of the most attractive sights that either Lancashire or Cheshire can boast.

The very situation of Arden Hall is suggestive of the romance of the olden time. The approach to the hall is along a country lane. Beneath it, in the depths of a fertile valley, which is redundant in the charms one usually attaches to the scenes of other days, meanders the "bonnie river Tame." There are some grand bits of woodland near, and not the least important the town seems far away. Standing on the bridge that spans the moat it requires little effort of imagination to people the grand old pile once again with knights and ladies, gay clad figures of the olden time. True there is an element of sadness about the vision, for the belted knights and stately dames, have long ago been dust.

> The river that runs by the old hall's walls
> Murmured to them as it murmurs now ;
> The golden glow of the sunset falls,
> As it fell for them, on glade, river, and bough ;
> The hall where they feasted, the church where they prayed,
> Their cradles and chambers, and gravestones, stay ;
> While lord and vassal, youth and maid,
> Knight and lady, have passed away.

ARDEN HALL.

Arden Hall was probably built upon the site of a previous homestead, as the Bredburys, with whom the Ardens intermarried, resided at this place. For several centuries the hall was the principal residence of the Ardern family. It was built of grey stone with two fronts; the main entrance was on the east side and approached by a flight of steps, the ruins of which still remain. The great hall is said to have been a noble apartment, capable of seating over 300 guests; and it would appear that the lord of the place entertained in the old feudal fashion—the principal guests dining at the high table set on a raised dais at the upper end of the room. The walls were wainscotted with oak, and, according to one authority, the hall contained a large number of paintings. In 1823, the hall (together with the estates and other possessions of the Ardens), was sold by auction, and since then it has been allowed to fall into decay, until, gradually, it has become a grand old ruin. Whether the neighbourhood of Arden Hall has at one time been the scene of some fierce battle is not clearly known, but the following items are of interest:—The elevated ground near is called "Castle Hill;" the lane leading to the hall is known as "Battle Lane;" the field near the entrance to the moat—"Battle Field;" and two pits by the road side as "Bloody Pits." Among other curiosities which the old hall possessed, was a bell (to be seen there up to a few years ago) of very clear tone, containing the motto—"Jane Done, 1642."

Not a far cry from Arden is Bredbury Hall, formerly a residence of a branch of the Bredburys; now, however, it is so altered as to have lost every vestige of its former appearance. This structure, like its neighbour of Arden, was most probably built upon the site of a former homestead, as there is every sign of some branch of the Bredburys being settled in the neighbourhood from very early times. As far back as 1638 the hall was occupied by a branch of the Davenports (a connection of the Bredbury family); but in later times the venerable building degenerated, like many of its fraternity, into an ordinary farmstead, a use it continued to be put to until well on in the present century. Unlike many of its kind, however, it has been reclaimed and placed—if not on its former pedestal of glory—at least as near it as is compatible with the progress of modern times. It is now converted into a most desirable family residence, picturesquely situated on the

BREDBURY HALL IN 1812.

banks of the Goyt ; and yet, in spite of its rural surroundings, within easy reach of the busy buzzing towns.

Bredbury Hall, though interesting in appearance, commands greatest attention by its old-time associations rather than by its architectural beauty. In this respect it differs greatly from its immediate neighbour, the third and last old hall dealt with in this chapter.

Goyt Hall, which stands further up the stream, is simply a perfect picture in black and white, and this notwithstanding that the rebuilding of one of the wings has considerably destroyed much of the ancient architectural effect. The hall is situated on the upper waters of the Mersey (or the river Goyt, as it is there known), and pleasantly reposes in the hollow of a rich valley, surrounded by beautiful scenery. There are well cultivated farmlands all around, and immediately below the building the Goyt bubbles merrily on, shadowed by a miniature forest of fine old trees, that forms the principal feature of the opposite bank. The hall is a picturesque half-timbered building, of the pretty black

and white order that our middle-age ancestors loved. It was erected in the 16th century as a mansion house for the Davenports of Henbury (at that time one of the chief ownership families in the district). It was built by one Randel Davenport somewhere about the year 1570, and its quaint old gables have since that time formed one of the prettiest sights that may be seen upon the

GOYT HALL, BREDBURY.

banks of the Goyt. Unfortunately, the interior of the hall has been greatly modernized to suit the needs of the farmstead into which the building has been converted. But, as aforesaid, the exterior, in spite of all modernizing influences, is still one of the most picturesque sights that the neighbourhood can show.

The families connected with, and owning these three old mansions, were all more or less intermarried with each other. Most ancient were the Bredburys, commonly supposed to be a branch of the Stokeports, who had assumed the local name for distinction. The Stokeports, however, continued to retain and exert the manorial rights, and in 1367 Isabel, the daughter of Sir Richard de Stokeport, held, by military service, the manor of Bredbury and its appurtenances. After her death, it was proved that John de Warren, Knight, was her heir, but he had conceded his right to Sir Ralph de Davenport, of Whelborough. The arrangement arrived at between the parties resulted in the Davenports, of Henbury, obtaining large possessions in the township.

But if the Bredburys were the most ancient family, yet the most famous of the three would appear to have been the family of Ardern. This family originally descended from the Arderns of Watford, in Northamptonshire, and were reported to be connected with the family of the world's greatest poet, Shakespear. Their connection with this district seems to have begun sometime in the 13th century. Sir John Arderne, the ancestor of the Cheshire branch, died before 1238, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Walkelyn de Arderne, who, by a marriage with Agnes de Orreby, inherited Alvanley, Upton, and other manors in Cheshire. Sir Walkelyn died in 1268, and was succeeded by his son, Sir Peter de Arderne. Sir John de Arderne, son of this Peter, died in 1308, leaving John de Arderne his heir, a ward of Hugh de Venables, Baron of Kinderton. In 1349, Peter, son of John de Arderne, succeeded to the estates, and is the first Arderne connected with Ardern Hall. In 1331, he married Cicely, daughter and heiress of Adam de Bredbury, and came in possession of a considerable portion of Bredbury. Later, he established his claim to the Alvanley estates, and his descendants became known as the Arderns, of Harden, in Bredbury, and of Alvanley, in Cheshire.

Hugh de Arderne, of Harden and Alvanley, held full possession of the estates in 1372, and in 1386 he departed for Ireland in the service of King Richard II. Dying about 1420, he was succeeded by Ralph Arderne, who was followed by John Arderne, who died about the year 1500. John Arderne was succeeded by his son, Thomas Arderne, of Harden, who died December 3rd, 1511, and left the estates to his younger brother Ralph. By his first wife, a daughter of Thomas Davenport, of Henbury, Ralph had issue John Arderne, son and heir, who succeeded his father in 1540. This John married in 1522, Anne Hyde, daughter of Robert Hyde, of Hyde and Norbury, and was Mayor of Stockport in 1523 and again in 1524. From the above union there was issue Ralph, who was over 70 years of age in 1598, and surrendered the estates to his eldest son John Arderne, in consideration of receiving a suitable maintenance for life. He was buried at Stockport, March 2nd, 1608.

John Arderne married Marie, daughter of Edward Holland, of Denton. He died in 1613, and was succeeded by his son Henry, who was buried at Stockport in 1623. Ralph Arderne,

son and heir of Henry (15 years old at his father's death), married Eleanor, one of the daughters and co-heiress of Sir John Done, of Utkinton. This Ardern became distinguished as an officer of Parliament at the time of the great Rebellion. He took his tenantry to defend Manchester in 1642 on the outbreak of the war, and he served in the army at Warrington and elsewhere. He was buried at Stockport on June 15th, 1650, and left his son (Sir) John as heir (see below). Another of his sons was James, the famous Dean Arderne of Chester.

James, the son of Ralph Arderne, was born at Arden Hall, most probably in the early autumn of 1636. He entered Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1653, took his B.A. in 1656, and afterwards became M.A. Two years later he went to Oxford, and became M.A. in 1658. For some time he lived in London. He was Chaplain to Charles II., and his ministrations to that merry monarch procured for him the rectory of Davenham in 1681, and the deanery of Chester in the following year. He is said to have had the promise of succession to the Bishopric of Chester, but the Revolution put an effectual bar to his further promotion. Dean Arderne acquired some fame as a writer, but was principally successful as a courtier. The exile of the Stuarts, of course, precluded him from further ambition, but it is a notable fact that it did not lessen his attachment to the Jacobite cause. On the contrary he clung to the cause of the exiled king, although his loyalty and devotion brought him many enemies even in his native locality. He died in 1691, and was buried in the choir of his own Cathedral. In accordance with a wish expressed in his will, the following lines were inscribed on his monument—

"Here lies the body of Dr. James Arderne, brother of Sir John Arderne, a while Dean of this church, who, though he bore a more than common affection to his private relations, yet gave the substance of his bequeathable estate to the Cathedral, which gift his will was, should be mentioned, that clergymen may consider whether it be not a sort of sacrilege to sweep away all from the church and charity into the possession of their lay kindred who are not needy."

Sir John Arderne, of Harden, Knt., succeeded his father, and was High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1666. He died in 1701, aged 72 years, and his son John died the following year. Ralph, a younger brother of John, followed, and in 1704, Richard, another brother succeeded, leaving as heir his son John, who was born 1709. John married the daughter of Cuthbert Pepper, Esq., of

Pepper Hall, Yorkshire, by whom he had four sons and five daughters. The eldest son, John, succeeded to the estates and was the first of the family to use the abbreviated surname of Arden He was High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1761.

The second brother, Richard Pepper Arden, was born in 1745, and became distinguished as the foremost lawyer of his time. He rose to the dignity of Master of the Rolls, an office which he filled for many years with a high reputation for efficiency. Besides amassing great wealth he was created a peer of the realm under the title of Baron Alvanley.

John Arden, son of the elder brother, was High Sheriff of Chester in 1790. Dying unmarried in 1823, he was succeeded by his nephew, William (eldest son of the famous Richard, and afterwards upon the death of the first Baron, second Lord Alvanley). This peer immediately took steps to dispose of the family estates in the district, and the lands, together with the Halls of Arden, Bredbury, and Goyt, were sold by auction for £154,773 10s. 0d. William, also, died unmarried, and his brother, Richard Pepper Arden, became the third baron. The third Lord Alvanley married in 1831, Lady Arabella Vane, daughter of the Duke of Cleveland, but died without male issue, and the title became extinct.

The Ardens formerly possessed a town house at Stockport, in Underbank, now used as the District Bank.

CHAPTER V.

MARPLE HALL AND THE BRADSHAWES.

'Tis said, as when the moon's bright beams
  Illumine Marple's Hall,
A headless form is seen to glide
  Along the oaken wall.
. . . . . .
Anon upon the terrace walk
  The ghost is also seen,
Encased in suit of armour bright,
  Of steel and silver sheen.
. . . . . .
And striding down the wood clad steep
  And by the rippling stream,
The ghost is seen to take his way,
  And vanish like a dream.

Lays and Legends of Cheshire.

ING of the manor houses of the district is the fine old Hall of Marple. None who have once gazed on its ivied front with the tiny, old-fashioned windows peeping shyly through the leaves, the pointed gables and mullioned stone, can ever forget its beauty; nor can they avoid linking it with that chain of old romance which legend has attached to it, and which certainly should flourish within the shadow of its walls.

Standing on a bold commanding rock, overlooking the rich vale through which the river Goyt meanders, the old hall is the most striking object in the whole landscape. It is just a perfect "picture in stone and leaf," and approaching it along the drive that runs through the park (thick with its fine old trees), one calls instantly to mind the beautiful poem of Mrs. Hemans, as applicable to this "stately home of England."

Built on the site of—or rather growing from—a half timbered house, that once occupied its present position, and added to on at least two occasions, the hall now stands in its own ornamental grounds, divided from the open park by a high stone wall. The main front, which is mantled with ivy, is surmounted by gables and stone finials, and has long narrow windows with stone mullions. Part of it is of a more modern style than the rest, the windows being loftier, and the general tone of the architecture showing evidences of a later date. The remains of a low tower are prominent in the centre of the main front, on the top of which is a small terrace enclosed in railings, that commands a fine and extensive view. Adjoining are the stables and offices, quaint and interesting as the hall itself. They are built of stone of a dull reddish colour with embattled gables, and rising from them is an old clock tower, square, surmounted with four gables, and having in the centre a ruined lantern turret. They were erected by Henry Bradshawe, the nephew of the famous judge, and bear the initials of himself and his wife, with the date 1669. The date of the original building of the hall is not known, but it appears to have been much earlier than the year quoted above. Marple Hall has been the seat of the Bradshawes, and their descendants the Isherwoods, for at least 300 years, and most probably was the home of some of the earlier lords of Marple.

The interior of the building is quite as attractive as the exterior, and well deserves a visit of inspection. The entrance hall, dimly lighted by stained glass windows, and suggestive of the ghostly memories that legend connects with it, contains suits of armour, ancient weapons, old oak furniture and some paintings. There are many pieces of richly carved oak in different parts of the hall, and there is (or was recently) a massive oak bedstead brought from Wybersley, and said to have belonged to Judge Bradshawe in his younger days. Of course, the hall is closely connected by tradition with the stern and famous sentencer of the King, and the old tale runs that on the stained glass of one window the following prophetic verse was written in early life by the future judge.

My brother Harry must heir the land,
My brother Frank must be at his command,
While I, poor Jack, will do that
Which all the world shall wonder at.

MARPLE HALL.

How Bradshawe accomplished this prophecy, is it not set down in glaring characters in the book of the chronicles of the Kings of England.

A walk through the stately park of Marple would, in one direction, lead the wanderer to the valley of the Goyt, in one of its prettiest portions, and a short saunter by the river would bring the Halls of Goyt and Bredbury into view. Taking the opposite direction and following the high road for about a mile and a half, after the park gates have been left behind, the traveller would find himself in the vicinity of another ancestral home of the Bradshawes—Wibersley or Wybersley Hall, the birth-place of the stern old judge. This building stands, well situated, a short distance from the road, its front overlooking a broad expanse of field. Although no equal to its neighbour of Marple in the way of architectural beauty or picturesque character, it is, nevertheless, far from uninteresting. It was the home of the Bradshawe family in the 16th century (probably prior to their residence at the more regal house of Marple), and here in 1602 Judge Bradshawe first saw light. Of the two halls, perhaps Wibersley should be visited first, for it would seem to point to the comparative obscurity and the quiet country life of the Bradshawes; while Marple, from the contrast, is more like the after fame and glory of the house, when its sons had sent their thrilling story ringing through the world.

It is rather difficult to determine what connection the Bradshawes had with Marple prior to the 16th century. Henry Bradshawe, the grandfather of the judge, resided there in 1578. He it was who purchased Wibersley and Marple from the Stanleys, in whose hands the estates of Marple had passed, by marriage, from the original lords—the Vernons of Haddon.

Henry Bradshawe, son of the above Henry, first lived at Wibersley, and was married at Stockport Church in 1593, to Catherine Winnington, of Offerton Hall. Of their four sons, two became famous in the after history of their country.

Henry, the second son (who ultimately became heir on the early death of his elder brother), was the well-known Colonel Bradshawe, and was born at Wibersley on the 23rd of January, 1601. He took a most active part in the civil war, serving first

as Sergeant-Major in Colonel Dukinfield's regiment, and afterwards as Lieutenant-Colonel under Colonel Ashton. He commanded a detachment at the battle of Worcester, fought on September 23rd, 1651, and was wounded whilst leading on his men. In 1651 Cromwell made him a member of the Court Martial for the trial of the Earl of Derby. Three years later, on the death of his father, he removed to Marple Hall, and erected a considerable portion of the present building. After the Restoration he was arrested (along with Colonel Dukinfield and others) for the part he had taken in respect to the execution of Lord Derby, but, like the rest, was after a time liberated.

ARMS OF
BRADSHAWE-ISHERWOOD.

The third son of Henry Bradshawe and Catherine Winnington was the world-renowned Judge Bradshawe, who became distinguished as the President of the tribunal which condemned King Charles I. to death. Bradshawe also signed the death warrant of the King.

In the middle of the 18th century, the male line of the Bradshawes becoming extinct, the estates reverted to the descendants of Mary Bradshawe, who, as a second union, had married Nathaniel Isherwood. From this marriage springs the present respected family of Bradshawe-Isherwood, who now hold possession of the estates and dwell at Marple Hall. Mr. Joel Wainwright, in his "Memoirs of Marple," gives a good account of the late Mrs. Ellen Bradshawe-Isherwood, a lady highly esteemed for her many benefactions to the neighbourhood.

CHAPTER VI.

THE FAMILIES OF DENTON AND HOLLAND.

ENTON Hall is now well-nigh a thing of the past, one wing only of the old fabric remaining This is almost buried from sight by the modern farm buildings that have sprung up around it. From the meagre walls of black and white that still stand one would have some difficulty in estimating the ancient grandeur that once clustered about the hall and made it the fitting home of two of the ancient families of Denton.

Old prints of a century ago evidence the place as one of fair proportions. The descriptions accompanying these, speak of it as an interesting example of post and petrel style common throughout Lancashire. Its apartments are said to have been of noble appearance, rivalling in size and magnificence the state rooms of its neighbouring mansion—the house of the Hydes of Denton. The building, of which the portion now standing formed a part, was erected about the end of the 16th century. Like many buildings of its kind it gradually lost its manorial splendour, and finally figured as a farm. Bit by bit the fabric disappeared, until to-day a stranger would have some difficulty in finding where the relic stands.

Of the early history of the family of Denton there are most scant memorials. In 1272 there is a record of John Tyrel confirming to the convent of Stanlawe, "an acre of land in Denton, the gift of his father, Hugh Tyrel, and which his great uncle, Richard de Denton, now holds for life." About 20 years later, Henry, son of Thomas de Denton, concluded an arrange-

ment with the monks and Abbot of Stanlawe, and in 1300 one Robert de Denton was Abbot of Furness, making a grant in that year for the foundation of a charity to Sir Richard Coupeland in "his chapel of Bolton in Urwick." In 1322 the ownership of the estates was vested in Alexander Denton.

DENTON HALL.

From the Holland pedigree it is ascertained that John Shoreworth, Esq., married Margaret, daughter and heiress of Sir Alexander Denton of Denton, knight. Their daughter, Margaret, married Sir William Holland, and the Denton estates passed into the Holland family. Sir William Holland was descended from Sir Robert de Holland, a famous soldier of Edward I., who married the daughter and heiress of Alan, Lord la Zouch, of Ashby de la Zouch. He founded the Priory of Black Monks in Holland in Lancashire.

The Denton estates remained in the hands of the Hollands till the close of the 17th century, when the last male heir being dead the direct line became extinct. The sister of the last male owner of the old stock, who inherited, became the wife of Sir John Egerton, Bart., through whom the Earls of Wilton derive their large interests in Denton.

The Hollands for many generations were great figures in the local history of Denton. They inter-married with most of the old neighbouring families, and increased their influence through such alliances. They were among the early founders of Denton Chapel, and more than one member of the family was distinguished for the vigorous nature of his religious convictions. Probably the most famous of them was Richard Holland, the Puritan, who figured in the defence of Manchester against the Royalists, and who was frequently heard of in connection with the cause of Parliament in the local conflicts that ensued about that time. He was Governor of Manchester at the time of the siege in 1642, and earned some distinction in many subsequent engagements. He died in 1661.

CHAPTER VII.

THE DE HOLLYNGWORTHE FAMILY.

THIS ancient Longdendale family was seated in the township of Hollingworth as far back as the reign of King John. Sir Peter Leycester puts forth the theory that this township is the ancient "Holisurde" of the Doomsday survey, included in the description of wasted lands then "held by the Earl," but previously "held by eight free men as manors."

One branch of this old family terminated in a female heiress about the time of Edward I. Through the reigns of Edward III., Henry IV., and other subsequent sovereigns, the old name, however, figures as owner (another family supposed to be descended from the parent stock). So far the name is spelt in the ancient fashion, *De Holynworth*, or *Hollyngworthe*; but in the time of Elizabeth there is a record of Robert *Holinworth*. The estate passed on, from father to son, in the old line until the middle of the last century, when Jacob Hollingworth sold the manor and manor-house to one Daniel Whitle. In the present century the Whitles conveyed them to Robert Hollingworth, who was descended from the early lords of Hollingworth, and who assumed the old name, De Hollyngworthe. This Robert de Hollyngworthe was a captain in the 6th Dragoon Guards, with which regiment he served in India. He was a Deputy-Lieutenant for the County, and a magistrate, much respected in Hyde. He died January 31st, 1865. Captain de Hollyngworthe left the estate and hall to his brother Dennis, who sold them the following year, 1866.

HOLLINGWORTH HALL (*from an old Print*).

An account of Hollingworth Hall from the "Manors of England and Wales," published some years ago, states :—"The hall is very ancient and retains its original site, and remains of stonework betokening Edwardian origin yet exist ; but the general character of the building refers to the period of Henry VI. It was originally quadrangular with chapel, great hall and gate tower, the latter is still remaining. A few relics of ancient armour, old pictures and stag antlers of great size hung upon the walls of the old dining hall, and many of the rooms still retain their tapestried hangings. The arms and initials of a very early date of this family, cut in stone, are built in over the north door of the Parish Church of Mottram, coeval with its erection, and facing Hollingworth. On the north side of the chancel is the family chapel, in one of the windows of which are the family arms, crest and motto, richly emblazoned."

A branch of the Hollyngworthes of the Old or Near Hall entered a pedigree in the Cheshire visitation of 1664. The old hall remained in possession of this family till the beginning of the century, when it was sold to Samuel Hadfield, Esq.

PART IV.

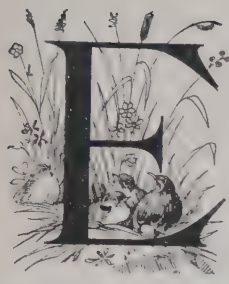
FAMOUS MEN OF THE LOCALITY.

"Henceforth and for ever
Men shall speak of your achievements."

Longfellow.

CHAPTER I.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON.



DWARD HYDE, Earl of Clarendon, was the only surviving son of Henry Hyde, of West Hatch, in Wiltshire. This Henry was the son of Lawrence Hyde, a younger son of Robert Hyde, of Hyde Hall.

Lord Clarendon was undoubtedly one of the greatest men this country has known. His influence on the national life was enormous. For some years he practically controlled the destinies of the Empire; and at a time when the court and most of the governors were steeped in debauchery and licentiousness, he stood out as a superior and noble being, untainted by the corruption of the age. As a statesman, Clarendon must rank with the greatest forces of the political life of England, while his reputation as a writer of history is equally as high.

Edward Hyde first saw light on the 18th of February, 1609. Primarily, he was intended for the Church, but on the death of his elder brother he was entered as a student of law, in the Middle Temple, in 1625. He married, in 1629, the daughter of Sir George Ayliffe, but this lady died after six months of married life. In 1633 he again married, this time a daughter of Sir Thomas Aylesbury, master of the Mint; and a few months after the event he came into possession of the family estates, on the death of his father. Clarendon formed friendship with the leading men of his day—statesmen and men of letters—and was on terms of intercourse with Ben Johnson and Izaak Walton.

In 1640, Mr. Hyde entered the Short Parliament and from the outset became a prominent member and leader of the

"patriotic party." He was found working with the reform leaders until they took, at the instigation of the more radical section, most serious steps for the suppression of the popularity which the King's cause at that time obtained. Although so ardent a reformer, Mr. Hyde seemed to think that circumstances would prevent the resumption, on the part of the King, of any tyrannous and unconstitutional practices, and he further seems to have fathomed the questionable intentions of some of the Reformers, and to have become filled with doubt as to the safety of their plans. At all events he resolutely opposed the first steps towards revolution, and ultimately cast in his lot with the fortunes of the court.

THE EARL OF CLARENDON.

In 1644, we find Mr. Hyde summoned to the King's presence, that he might receive His Majesty's thanks for good services rendered. A little later, the gratitude of the monarch took a more practical shape, and Mr. Hyde was offered the post of Solicitor General, which, however, he declined, although he allowed himself to form one of a remarkable trio who completely managed the King's affairs.

The Royalist cause, under the skilful management of Mr. Hyde and his friends, daily gained ground, until Charles ruined his own prospects and the Civil War began.

Mr. Hyde joined His Majesty at York in 1642, remaining for the next two years the King's confidant and adviser. He was made Chancellor of the Exchequer, a member of the Privy Council, and received the honour of knighthood—all in 1643. The year 1645 saw him appointed a member of the Council by which the young Prince Charles was to be guided on his journey to the west, and when it became necessary for the Prince to quit the kingdom, it was in charge of Sir Edward Hyde that the future Charles II. fled, first to the Scilly Isles, and then to Jersey. The Prince subsequently joined his mother in Paris, in direct opposition to the wishes and advice of Sir Edward Hyde, and the latter spent the next two years in retirement at Jersey, occupying the time with the preparation of his great work the "History of the Rebellion."

In obedience to an order of the King, Sir Edward Hyde quitted his retreat in 1648, and joined the Prince at The Hague, after having been seized on the voyage and plundered by Ostend pirates.

After the execution of the King, Sir Edward Hyde took up his residence with the Court at Paris. Here his resources were taxed to the uttermost to provide, in his capacity of Chancellor of the Exchequer, pecuniary supplies for the support of Prince Charles and his suite. Many a time, we are told, his embarrassments were so keen that he was without clothes or fire even in the winter, and became heavily involved in debt for food and lodging.

In 1658, Charles appointed Sir Edward Hyde to the office of Lord Chancellor, an empty title then, as the prospects of the restoration were anything but bright. But the death of Cromwell, the early abdication of his son Richard, and the many disputes between the army and Parliament, brought about a different state of things; and Sir Edward Hyde, who had through all this period been the adviser of his Prince, landed with Charles at Dover on the 25th of May, 1660, took part in the triumphal entry into the capital, and on the 1st of June took his seat on the woolsack.

For the next half-dozen years Sir Edward Hyde was practically the ruler of the country, and controlled, almost absolutely, the destinies of the nation. Meanwhile, his daughter Anne had privately married the brother of the King, James, the Duke of York, and now, after various intrigues, she was publicly proclaimed by James as his Duchess. The marriage gave great offence to the court and the King's mother, but in no way lessened Hyde's influence with Charles ; for we find him elevated to the peerage in 1661 by the titles of Baron Hyde of Hyde, and, a little later, created Viscount Cornbury and Earl of Clarendon.

About 1663, Lord Chancellor Hyde fell into the bad graces of the King. His plain open admonition began to annoy Charles, who had now become a prey to the grossest licentiousness, and was completely in the power of his many mistresses. The King's favourites left no stone unturned to secure the mighty Chancellor's downfall, and the Earl of Bristol presented to the House of Lords, articles of impeachment for treason against him. Clarendon however, vigorously replied, and emerging triumphantly from the struggle, brought so strong a censure on the head of his enemy, that Bristol was obliged to abscond, and live in hiding for several years.

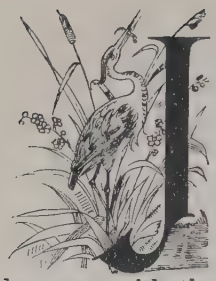
But the star of the once great Chancellor was now on the wane. The worthless friends of Charles, and his still worse and numerous mistresses, did all they could to destroy Hyde's influence with the King, and, mainly through the latter agencies, he was deprived of the Great Seal in 1667. This dismissal gave the signal for a combined attack by all the enemies of the once powerful minister, and he was impeached for high treason. A quarrel on the matter taking place between the two Houses of Parliament, Clarendon, on the entreaty of his friends, fled to France on the 29th of November, 1667. A vindication which he left behind him was, through the action of the Duke of Buckingham, burned by the common hangman. Ultimately the two Houses of Parliament united in passing an act of banishment, excluding him from the British dominions for ever.

Clarendon then settled down at Montpellier, and completed his famous "History," and the "Memoirs" of his life. Subsequently he moved to Rouen, and in 1674 addressed a most humble appeal to the king, that he should be granted permission

to die in his native country. The appeal was refused, and a few months later he passed away in the 65th year of his age. Lord Clarendon left six children by his second wife. The eldest son, Henry, who succeeded to the title, gained some notoriety by his antagonism to the court of his brother-in-law, James II., and the insurrectionary schemes in which he finally entered against the reign of William of Orange and Queen Mary. Lawrence Hyde, the Chancellor's second son, became a leading statesman in the reign of Charles II. and James II., and was elevated to the peerage as Earl of Rochester.

CHAPTER II.

JOHN BRADSHAWE.



JOHN BRADSHAWE was the second son of Henry Bradshawe, of Marple and Wybersley Halls, Cheshire, and Catherine, the youngest daughter of Ralph Winnington, of Offerton Hall. He was born at Wybersley, in 1602, and was baptized on the 10th of December in that year at the old parish church of Stockport. The entry in the register is still to be seen, with the word "traitor" written in the right hand corner. This addition has, presumably, been made by some sturdy loyalist not afraid to show his opinion of the subject.

Bradshawe first received his education at Bunbury, in Cheshire, and afterwards at Middleton, in Lancashire. He was then articled to an attorney at Congleton, and finally completed his education at Gray's Inn, where he was called to the Bar in 1627. He returned to Congleton about the year 1630, and was appointed legal adviser to the Corporation, and made a free man; subsequently, in 1637, becoming mayor. In 1640, Bradshawe was appointed judge of the Sheriffs' Court in Guildhall, London. In 1644, he was High Sheriff of Lancashire. He was created, by order of Parliament, a Sergeant-at-Law in 1648.

The crowning step of Bradshawe's career was the part he took in the trial of King Charles I. On the 3rd of January, 1649, the Commons had decided on the trial of His Majesty, an act so unconstitutional as to meet with the determined opposition of the Lords. The quarrel culminated in an open breach between the two houses, and the Commons decided to act alone. They appointed a court of commissioners to proceed with the trial, but a difficulty arose as to who should sit as president of this (as it

has since been called) "The Black Tribunal." The judges of the realm refused to serve, and even the most distinguished republican lawyers held aloof. The Commons, however, deeming it expedient that the Tribunal should have some legal authority as its head, offered the presidency to Bradshawe, who, on the 12th of January, 1649, attended by special summons and earnestly pleaded to be

JOHN BRADSHAWE.

excused. His appeal being unavailing, he assumed the title of Lord President, and, without further remonstrance, entered on his somewhat unenviable task. That he himself was not unaware of the danger attached to his position, is to be deduced from the fact that the broad brimmed hat which he wore during the trial, and which is still preserved at Oxford, is lined with plated steel as a protection against personal violence.

It is interesting to note Bradshawe's conduct during the great trial. After several preliminary meetings the High Court of Justice sat on the 20th of January in Westminster Hall. Bradshawe, dressed in plain black, occupied a crimson velvet chair set in the middle of the court, and was supported by the members of the court, seated on chairs on each side of him. "The King, on being brought in the court, cast a stern look at the officers and the people in the gallery, and then seated himself without removing his hat or showing the least respect to the court. He then stood up again, and, turning round, looked at the guards and the multitude of spectators. Bradshawe then acquainted him with the purpose of the court, and, amid frequent interruptions from His Majesty, the charge was read over. When the clerk came to the words declaring "Charles Stuart to be a tyrant and a traitor," the King laughed in the face of the court." The first sitting was occupied by a lengthy dispute between the King and Bradshawe, concerning the authority of the court, which Charles refused to acknowledge. For several days this prolonged dispute between the two continued, and it was not until the 27th of January that the court met for the last time, when Bradshawe, clad in his scarlet robes, and surrounded by a guard of armed soldiers, prepared for the final scene. When silence had been secured, the Lord President delivered a long and bitter address in justification of the sentence he was about to pronounce, angrily refusing to hear the interruptions which the King frequently sought to make. The sentence having been pronounced—one of death—the following short and final passage between victim and judge took place :—

KING. Will you hear me a word, Sir?

BRADSHAWE. Sir, you are not to be heard after the sentence.

KING. No, Sir?

BRADSHAWE. No, Sir. By your favour, Sir? Guard withdraw your prisoner.

KING. I may speak after sentence, by your favour, Sir. I may speak after sentence even. By your favour. Hold! The sentence, Sir; I say, Sir — I do—I am not suffered to speak—expect what justice other people will have ——

At this point the King was removed by the guard.

Bradshawe signed the death warrant on the 29th of January, 1649, and the sentence was carried out next day, when Charles met his fate like a man.

Many honours and rewards were conferred on Bradshawe after this historic event. In the following month the House of Commons appointed a Council of State to manage the affairs of the nation, and Bradshawe was selected President—the highest office in the kingdom. He was made Chief Justice in Wales, and received a gift of £5,000, with an income of £1,000 per year for life, together with the annual income of £4,000 derived from the confiscated lands of the Earl of St. Albans and Lord Cottingham, the deanery of Westminster as a town residence, and a country seat in Kent. He was also made Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Bradshawe was appointed President of a new Court of Justice established for the trial of the Duke of Hamilton and other State prisoners, and it was while holding this position that the famous quarrel between himself and Cromwell took place. Having dismissed the Long Parliament on his own authority, Cromwell went down to the Court with the intention of breaking it up, and having entered the chamber, said: "Gentlemen, if you are met here as private persons you shall not be molested, but if as a Council of State, this is no place for you; since you cannot but know what was done in this House this morning, so take notice that the Parliament is dissolved."

To this Bradshawe fearlessly answered: "Sir, we have heard what you did at the House this morning, and before many hours are over all England will hear of it; but, Sir, you are mistaken to think that Parliament is dissolved, for no power under heaven can dissolve it but itself. Therefore, take you notice of that."

This, the last great scene in the life of the English Republic, completely estranged the two men, and Cromwell left Bradshawe out of his new Council of State. He also requested him to resign the Judgeship of Chester, a request with which Bradshawe defiantly refused to comply. The Lord Protector dying, however, in 1658 (when Bradshawe was re-elected to represent Chester, along with Mr. Legh, of Lyme), he was placed on the new Council of State, and again elected President of the Council.

But he did not live to enjoy his new favours long, for his last public appearance was made in 1659, on that notable occasion when the army turned out Parliament by force. His death occurred in the following month, and he was buried with great

pomp in Westminster Abbey. After the Restoration, his body was exhumed, and, with the bodies of Cromwell and Ireton, was drawn on a cart to Tyburn and there hanged upon the gallows from ten in the morning till sundown, when the three corpses were beheaded, the heads placed on Westminster Hall, and the bodies burned at the foot of the gallows.

Bradshawe married Mary, daughter of Thomas Marbury, of Marbury, who died some years before him without issue.

The poet Milton (a kinsman of the Judge) says of him :— "He brought to the study of the law, a capacity enlightened, a lofty spirit and spotless manners obnoxious to none, so that he filled the high and lofty office, rendered the more dangerous by the threats and daggers of private assassins, with a firmness, a gravity, a dignity and presence of mind, as if he had been designed and created by the Deity expressly for this work, for how much more is it just and majestic to try a tyrant than to slay him untried?"

But this language of extravagance is immediately met by a no less distinguished authority, the great Clarendon, who describes Bradshawe as :—

"A lawyer of Gray's Inn, not much known at Westminster Hall, though of good practice in his chambers. He was a gentleman of an ancient family in Cheshire and Lancashire, but of a fortune of his own making. He was not without parts, and of great insolence and ambition. With great humility he accepted the office—Lord President of the Council—which he administered with all pride, insolence, and superciliousness imaginable."

Whatever Bradshawe's faults may have been, he firmly believed in and held to the principles of Republicanism. His resolute opposition to the iron-willed Protector calls at once for the admiration of all men. When Cromwell appeared desirous of concentrating in himself an arbitrary power, Bradshawe fearlessly and openly withstood him, proclaiming that "if they were to be governed by a single person, Charles Stuart was as proper a gentleman for it as any in the kingdom." The scene when this occurred is described as a most illustrious situation for Bradshawe. "Cromwell was backed by all his guards. Bradshawe appeared before him in the simple robe of his integrity. A few words, a

brief and concentrated remonstrance were enough. They were uttered, and Cromwell ventured no reply. Abashed the tyrant stood."

This, of course, redounds much to the credit of John Bradshawe in spite of all his detractors may level against him. One can excuse a great deal when a man stands throughout a life-time firm and true to the principles and the cause which in his heart he believes the best.

And if anything further were needed to be advanced in favour of the Judge, the words of Cromwell, uttered after their struggle, would suffice:—"I have dissolved the Council of State," said he to Desborough, "in spite of *honest* John Bradshawe, the President."

CHAPTER III.

BARON ALVANLEY.

ICHARD PEPPER ARDEN, first Lord Alvanley, was the son of John Arden, of Arden Hall, and was born in 1744. Like another famous lawyer—John Bradshawe the Regicide—he was baptized in the Parish Church of Stockport. His early education was obtained at the Manchester Grammar School, which he entered in 1752 and left in 1763. After this he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, and graduated there, distinguishing himself by his command of classical literature, and his wonderful powers and grace of elocution. He obtained his B.A. in 1766, and M.A. in 1769, soon afterwards being elected to a Fellowship of Trinity College. He then entered the Middle Temple, London, where he studied law and was called to the bar and soon appointed King's Counsel. Following this appointment he took chambers in Lincoln's Inn, where he lived on the same staircase and in the closest intimacy with William Pitt, subsequently Prime Minister. He practised as a barrister in the Court of Chancery, and by his commanding abilities he soon attained a high reputation. In December, 1782, he was returned to Parliament for Newton, in the Isle of Wight, and on the formation of Pitt's Government in the following year, Arden took office as Solicitor-General.

In 1784, the year of his marriage to Anne Dorothea, daughter of Richard Wilbraham, Esq., M.P., he was elected member for Aldborough, and was made Attorney-General and Chief Justice of Chester. He succeeded Kenyon in 1788 as Master of the Rolls, and was knighted in the following year. On the formation of the Addington administration Lord Eldon became Chancellor, and Sir Richard Pepper Arden succeeded him as Lord Chief

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Justice of Common Pleas, being called to the House of Lords as Baron Alvanley, in the county of Chester. He was also appointed a Privy Councillor.

Lord Alvanley did not live long to enjoy his distinction, for he died in 1804, in his 59th year, and was buried in the Rolls Chapel, Chancery Lane. He left two sons, both of whom succeeded him in the peerage, but these leaving no issue behind them, the title became extinct on the death of the younger in 1851.

As a politician, Lord Alvanley doubtless owed much of his success and the rapidity with which he attained it, to the friendship and patronage of Pitt. But he was unquestionably a learned lawyer, and comparisons drawn between Alvanley and Lord Thurlow have resulted greatly in favour of the former. In his own lifetime his decisions and the independence of his judgments secured for him the confidence and high esteem of the people, and the reputation left behind him is that of a just and able judge. Some authorities speak of him as not being possessed of exceptional oratorical powers, but ascribe his principal factors of success as being his intelligence, his readiness and wit—the general attributes of a skilful debater. In addition to his legal learning and his general intelligence, Arden secured some small fame from the abilities he possessed as a poet. His verse, of course, is not of that type which is born to be immortal, but it is often witty and humorous, and occasionally brilliant. Two examples—written in his schoolboy days—are retained in the Manchester School register. In one of these which is here given, the author deals with the question of English elocution, and what is most singular and noteworthy, the career of the lawyer and politician. The piece is said to have been written for dramatic performance:—

To shun the rock on which so many split,
Which renders learning dull and tasteless wit,
We thus presume to tread the buskined stage,
And risk attempts so far beyond our age;
The motive sure is good, excuse it, then,
If boys who hope in time to act like men,
Leave for a time their Latin and their Greek,
And their own native English learn to speak;

Learn to speak well, what well they hope to write,
And manly eloquence with truth unite.

. . . . . .

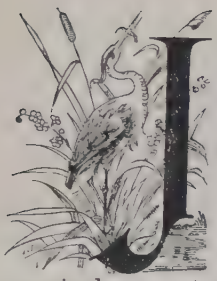
Each act his part in his respective place,
With just decorum and becoming grace,
Teach with success fair virtue's sacred law,
Speak at the bar with honour and applause,
And in the senate plead our country's cause.

Generally speaking, the few productions of his pen show much refinement and ease of expression, as well as the keenness and brilliant pointing of the satirist. Arden's fame as a versifier must, however, rank far below the reputation he has acquired for his legal learning and the soundness of his judgments.

Lord Alvanley, it may be mentioned, throughout his life retained the keenest interest in the fortunes of the Manchester Grammar School, within whose walls his earliest education had been received. And to-day the Grammar School is proud of him, and honours him as one of the greatest of her sons.

CHAPTER IV.

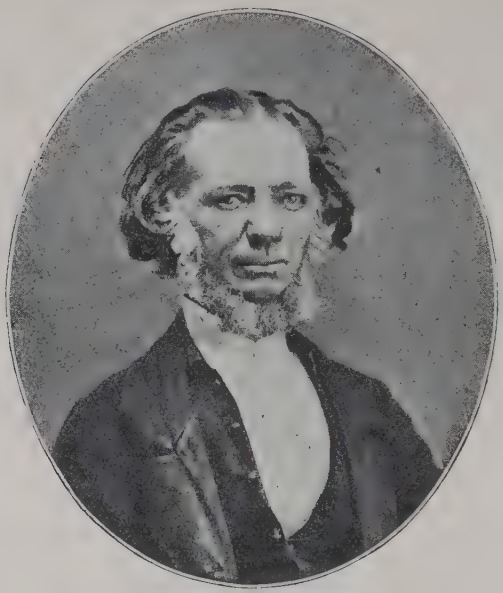
JOHN CRITCHLEY PRINCE.
Author of "Hours with the Muses."



JOHN CRITCHLEY PRINCE, the Bard of Hyde, was one of a band of gifted singers and prominent literary man—self taught be it said—whose names are household words in the great industrial hive about cottonopolis. In his day Prince was a great force in the active life of the manufacturing north, and probably no writer ever exercised a greater power over the people, or pleaded more eloquently for the emancipation of the sons of toil. Just as Burns was the bard and wonder of the farmer-folk of Ayr, so was Prince the wonder, the product, and the pride of the factory workers of Lancashire. His lays cheered them through long years of weary labour, filled them with fresh hopes and aspirations, and now when the writer has gone to rest, their melody still lingers and many weary hearts are gladdened by its sound.

Critchley Prince was born on June 21st, 1808, at Wigan, in Lancashire. He was brought up amid the greatest poverty, and was never sent to school. His education was obtained solely from his mother and from the teachers of a Sunday School. The Princes eventually settled in Hyde, where the poet married in 1826, when under 19 years of age. His income at the time was very small, and when a young family appeared, it took the united efforts of both parents to procure even a bare subsistence. Misled by glowing accounts of the prospects of artisans in France, Prince at length left his family to seek his fortune abroad. Disappointment, however, met him on the Continent; the greatest distress prevailed, and unable to obtain work, he found himself a beggar in a strange country, possessing no knowledge of the language.

In the middle of the winter of 1831 Prince left Mülhausen to return to Hyde. He followed the romantic wanderings of the Rhine, exploring the ruined castles and visiting the principal scenes of legendary lore. Travelling through Strasbourg, Nancy, Rheims, Chalons, and most of the principal cities, he at length arrived in Calais, having subsisted on the charity of the few English residents he had met with on the way. A passage was procured for him by the British Consul at Calais, and he at length set foot again in England.



JOHN CRITCHLEY PRINCE.

On his return Prince first applied for food and shelter at a workhouse in Kent, and was cast into a filthy garret with 12 other unfortunates, some of whom were in a high state of fever; indeed, the dawn of the next day found his bedfellow dead. From here he proceeded with bare feet to London, begging in the day-time and sleeping in the open fields at night. A portion of his clothing he sold at "Rag Fair" for 8 pence, which treasure he spent partly in allaying the dreadful cravings of hunger, and partly in the purchase of paper and writing materials. Entering a neighbouring tavern, he wrote as much of his own poetry as the

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paper would contain, and that task done he went round to a number of booksellers, hoping to dispose of the manuscript for a shilling or two. But disappointment again met him, and after staying in London a short time—lying on the stones of some gateway at night, he left the metropolis and set off northward. His biographer tells us that he slept in barns, vagrant offices, under hay-stacks, in the lowest of lodging-houses; one day he ground corn at Birmingham, another he sang ballads at Leicester, the cool night wind found him sleeping under the oaks of Sherwood Forest, and finally he rested his weary limbs in the "lock-up" at Bakewell. By perseverance, however, he at length reached Hyde, only to find that his wife, unable to sustain herself and children, had been obliged to apply for parish relief, and was then in the workhouse at Wigan. Prince hurried off to that town, removed his family to Manchester, where he took a bare garret, and without furniture of any sort, with a bundle of straw for a bed, the wretched family remained several months. The Princes subsequently returned to Hyde, where a fairer fortune smiled upon them than had been the case in former years.

It was not until 1841 that Prince published his first work, "Hours with the Muses." He contributed at different times to the Manchester periodicals, and to three now defunct local magazines, "Microscope," "Phœnix," and "Companion."

The publication of "Hours with the Muses" brought Prince numbers of friends, but unfortunately he became a prey to habits of intemperance. He seems to have fallen into an unsettled state, sometimes working at his old trade of reed-making, often hanging about the country, and chiefly depending for subsistence on the profits of the five successive volumes which issued from his pen. An attempt was made to secure for him a pension, which, although fruitless as far as its main effort was concerned, won for him a grant from the Royal Bounty. He died at Hyde in 1866, and was buried in St. George's Churchyard, where a head-stone commemorating his works has been erected over his grave by a few admiring friends.

Prince's fame as a poet has been for the most part provincial, although his writings have been frequently quoted by the press in all parts of the world. His verse exhibits unmistakeable signs of genius, and is well worth perusal. In all his poetry there

is a decided literary quality, which is surprising when one remembers that his surroundings were anything but encouraging to study. Another pleasing feature of his work is that it is so little touched with the spirit of the misanthrope, or hate of the moneyed class, as one might have expected from a writer who had suffered so bitterly the pangs of poverty. There is a gracefulness of expression, and a musical flow in the language, which rather indicate the well-read and educated man than the wearied, self-taught artisan. His verse is permeated with a deep reverential spirit and an inherent love of nature. This latter quality is shown forcibly in his stirring lines on Kinderscout :—

Dark Kinder ! standing on thy whin-clad side,
Where storm and solitude and silence dwell,
And stern sublimity hath set his throne—
I looked upon a region wild and wide :
A realm of mountain, forest haunt, and fell,
And fertile valleys, beautifully lone,
Where fresh and free romantic waters roam,
Singing a song of peace by many a cottage home.

. . . . . .

Oh ! is it not religion to admire.
O God ! what thou hast made in field and bower,
And solitudes from man and strife apart—
To feel within the soul the awakening fire
Of pure and chastened pleasure, and the power
Of natural beauty on the tranquil heart ;
And then to think that our terrestrial home
Is but a shadow still of that which is to come.

Prince gave forth in the form of verse the national aspiration after "progress, peace, and temperance," and his lyrics are among the finest that have been written on those topics. Indeed, on those questions his poems attained the force of platform power, and as such they have been, and are to-day, often quoted. The poet's greatest sympathies probably lay with the efforts made toward the amelioration of the working-classes, to which he belonged, and his feelings in this direction were clearly indicated in his numerous "Lyrics for the People." One of them is well worth quoting. It is headed

"The Songs of the People."

Oh ! the Songs of the People are voices of power
That echo in many a land,
They lighten the heart in the sorrowful hour
And quicken the labour of hand ;

They gladden the shepherd on mountain and plain,
And the mariner tossed on the sea;
The poets have given us many a strain,
But the Songs of the People for me.

The artizan, wending full early to toil,
Sings a snatch of old song by the way;
The ploughman who sturdily furrows the soil,
Cheers the morn with the words of his lay;
The man at the smithy, the maid at the wheel,
The mother with babe on her knee,
Chant simple old rhymes, which they tenderly feel,
Oh! the Songs of the People for me.

An anthem of triumph, a ditty of love,
A carol 'gainst sorrow and care,
A hymn of the household that rises above,
In the music of hope or despair;
A strain patriotic that wakens the soul
To all that is noble and free;
These lyrics o'er men have a strong control,
Oh! the Songs of the People for me.

As before stated, Prince was no misanthrope, and he seems to have been instilled with hope as to the future of the English toilers. The following verse is quoted from the stirring poem, "A call to the People."

O God! the future yet shall see
On this fair world of thine,
The myriads wise, and good, and free,
Fulfil thy blest design;
The dawn of Truth, long overcast,
Shall kindle into day at last,
Bright, boundless and divine;
And man shall walk the fruitful sod,
A being worthy of his God.

Of the facile and musical flow of his language many evidences could be quoted; the following, however, will suffice. The lines are taken haphazard from a poem called "The Maid of a Mountain Land."

A smile of delight from all went round,
As she turned to the casket of sleeping sound;
On the tremulous keys her fingers fell,
As rain-drops fall in a crystal well;
Till full on the ear the witchery stole,
And melody melted the captive soul;
She touched the cords with a skilful hand,—
That dark-eyed Maid of a Mountain Land.

One of the best of Prince's poems is "The Golden Land of Poesy," and the following verses extracted from it are evidently the poet's own estimate of his work.

At length, oh joy ! the enchanted shore
  Loomed up in far-off loveliness,
And I grew eager to explore
The wondrous realm ;—my tears ran o'er
  With very gladness of success ;
Odours of spices and of flowers
  Came on the breezes flowing free ;
Rich branches, reft from gorgeous bowers,
Bestrewed the wave ;—the land was ours—
  The Golden Land of Poesy.

Not yet ! a barrier crossed my way—
  My shrinking vessel back recoiled ;
I could not reach the sheltering bay,
For rocks and shoals about me lay,
  And winds opposed, and water boiled,
Thus baffled by the Poet-God ;
  I only brought—alas for me—
Some waifs and strays from that bright God;
Which I have seen, but have not trod—
  The Golden Land of Poesy.

PART V.

FRAGMENTS OF HISTORY.

"Floating down the tide of years."

FRAGMENTS OF HISTORY.

ROBABLY the oldest house in Hyde is "The Lumn" homestead of the Shepleys. Purchased in 1612 from Sir Uryan Legh, of Adlington, "The Lumn" estate became the property of Richard Shepley, whose direct descendants continue to hold it. This estate is said to have received its somewhat uncommon cognomen from the fact that the homestead erected thereon was then the only house near that boasted a chimney. On that account it was named "The Lumn."

The above-mentioned Sir Uryan Legh was a warrior of considerable fame. He was a commander under the Earl of Essex at the siege of Cadiz, when the soldiers of the great Elizabeth took that city in 1590. In acknowledgment of his services he was knighted, and in the reign of James I. was High Sheriff of Chester. He is said to have been a hero of romance, and figures as the principal character in one of the fine old English ballads, a fragment of which is here appended :—

Will you hear a Spanish ladye,
How she wooed an Englishman?
Garments gay and rich as may be,
Decked with jewels she had on,
Of a comely countenance and grace was she
And by birth and parentage of high degree.

As his prisoner there he kept her
In his hands she there did lye;
Cupid's hands did tie them faster
By the liking of an eye.
In his courteous company was all her joy,
To favour him in anything she was not coy.

But at last there came commandment
For to set the ladies free
With their jewels still adorned,
None to do them injury.
Then said this lady mild—"Full woe is me,
O let me still sustain this kind captivity.

"Gallant captain show some pity
To a lady in distresse,
Leave me not within this city
For to die in heavinesse;
Thou has't this present day my body free
But my heart in prison still remains with thee."

"THE LUMN."

"Rest you still most gallant lady,
Rest you still and weep no more;
Of fair lovers there is plenty,
Spain doth yield a wondrous store,
Spaniards fraught with jealousy we often find
But Englishmen through all the world are counted kind."

"Leave me not unto a Spaniard,
You alone enjoy my heart;
I am lonely, young and tender,
Love is likewise my desert;
Still to serve thee day and night my mind is prest,
The wife of every Englishman is counted blest."

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"It would be a shame fair lady,
For to bear a woman hence;
English soldiers never carry
Any such without offence;"
"I'll quickly change myself if it be so,
And like a page I'll follow thee where'er thou go."

"Courteous lady leave this fancy,
Here comes all that breeds the strife;
I in England have already
A sweet woman to my wife;
I will not falsify my vow for gold or gain
Nor yet for all the fairest dames that live in Spain."

"Ah! how happy is that woman
That enjoys so true a friend;
Many happy days God send her,
Of my suit I make an end;
On my knees I pardon crave for my offence,
Which did from love and true affection first commence.

"Commend me to thy lovely lady,
Bear to her this chain of gold;
And these bracelets for a token
Grieving that I was so bold;
All my jewels in like sort take thou with thee,
For they are fitting for thy wife but not for me.

"I will spend my days in prayer,
Love and all its joys defy;
In a nunnery will I shroud me
Far from any companye;
But ere my prayers have an end, be sure of this
To pray for thee and for thy love I will not miss."

A BIT FROM OLD-TIME MARPLE.

Leigh's collection of ballads under the title of "Lays and Legends of Cheshire," contains a poem based on the tradition that the ghost of the martyred King Charles rides at midnight—a headless spectre—round and round Marple Hall. This old Hall provides matter for a dozen volumes of antique history and lore. Some years ago the "private expenditure journal" of Henry Bradshawe, the elder brother of the notorious Lord President, was unearthed, and disclosed much interesting information of the prices appertaining in these parts 250 years ago. Some of the items will be found instructive. Meat was evidently very cheap. A quarter of veal cost 1/10; a breast, 8d.; a loin, 10d.; a quarter of lamb, 1/2; a breast of mutton, 7d.; venison: a quarter of doe, 1/-; half a buck, 2/6 to 3/4. Herrings were 3/- per 100.

Wheat was 1/3 per peck, barley 8d. Turnips were 8d. the hoop, apples 1/- and 1/2 the peck. Hemp was 4/- and wool 10/- the stone. Coal 1/- and lime 1/8 per load. Candles were 4d., 5d., and 6d. per pound, starch 4d. and 6d., and wax 1/- Vinegar 8d. per quart, pepper 2d. and nutmegs 5d. the ounce. Soap 1/- per dozen balls. Tobacco 2d. an ounce.

Broad cloth was 13/4, linen 1/4, and holland 2/8 the yard. Boots were from 10/- to 12/-, shoes 4/-, stockings 7d. to 2/-, and gloves from 6d. to 2/6 the pair.

It should be remarked that labour then was proportionately cheap, common labourers earning 3d. and 4d. a day, while masons, wrights, tailors, thatchers, paviors, ploughmen, and mowers were paid 6d. and 8d. per diem. Male servants had £3 per year, and female domestics half that amount.

Henry Bradshawe's journal contains entries of payments of "ship money," "my share of the contribution to Ireland," "for peticion to the Parliament," "for my share of subsidies," "payments for military accoutrements," "for messengers to Sir William Breerton, the Parliamentary commander," and allowances of money and drink to "my souldiers."

A rather noteworthy fact concerning the owners of Marple Hall was their kinship with the great poet Milton. In his will John Bradshawe bequeaths to the author of "Paradise Lost" a legacy of £10. It is somewhat singular that another of the local families of note should claim blood alliance with another of the world's greatest poets—Shakespeare. The "Bard of Avon's" mother was Mary Arden, daughter of Robert Arden, of Willingcote, in Warwickshire, the representative of a family of great antiquity, of which the Ardens of Arden Hall were a younger branch.

GODLEY IN THE OLDEN TIME.

Old writings speak of the "thick woods of Godley and Hattersley," and of the forest growth along the windings of the Tame. These woods are said to have contained some of the finest oaks and ashes that old England could boast. Godley was also noted for the wealth of its farm lands, its rich meadows, and cultivated acres. These advantages, it would seem, did not

escape the eyes of bygone generations, as there is little doubt that Godley has been well cultivated and inhabited from remote times.

The Godley township, though not mentioned in Doomsday, originally belonged to a family bearing the local name. This family was settled at Godley in the time of King John, and was said to have derived its name from the township. In King John's time one Adam de Godele is given as the owner; he left two sons, William and Robert. In the reign of Edward I., Henry, son of Robert de Godelegh, obtained from William, son of Henry de Godelegh, lands in Godelegh, and an acknowledgement that other lands, which "Richard de Dokenfield and Avice, his wife, held in dower were his (Henry's) rights."

In the time of Edward II. William de Baggelegh obtained from "Robert de Godlegh the manor of Godlegh to them and their heirs," and in 1324 Eler, widow of Richard de Godlegh, released to this William de Baggelegh all her claim to lands held in dower in the township of Godlegh. Isabella, a co-heiress of the Baggeleghs, married with John de Hyde of Hyde and Norbury. The Godley family continued here and in the neighbourhood as landed proprietors for several generations after this, but ultimately became extinct. From the Baggeleghs and their connections or descendants, the Hydes of Hyde and Norbury, portions of the township got in the hands of the Masseys of Sale. Over a century ago, on the break-up of this old family, these portions passed by purchase to the various owners, from whom their present holders derive their right.

It would seem that one moiety of Godley, soon after the union of Isabella Baggelegh with John de Hyde, was split up into smaller estates. About the year 1481 there were certain disputes connected with lands in Godley, held by Sir John Asheton of Ashton, on which a claim was made by Reginald Legh. In consequence of this, Sir John induced the gentry, clergy, and yeomanry of the neighbourhood to bear witness to his rightful possession, by a quaint deed, with 15 seals attached, and containing the names of eight squires, seven gentlemen, three priests, and sixteen yeomen. The document, which is worded in the old style, sets forth that "John Asheton had a deed of gift to him and his heirs for ever from one John Wylde, late of Hyde,

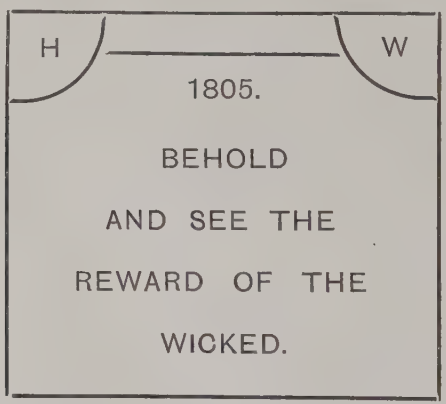
of the said lands," and that "Asheton had peacefully occupied them." It had been noised by "slanderous, evil-disposed people" that by a prior deed Wylde had given them to Legh. The signatories, however, affirm that they knew nothing of this, and that Sir John Asheton was the rightful owner.

In the year 1649, Edmund Ashton, of Chadderton, leased to "Reginald Tetlaw, of Godley, husbandman, eldest son of John Tetlaw of Godley, the new stone building lately built by him, and the adjacent buildings, with certain fields, close, etc., for 90 years." After this the place took the name of Tetlaw or Tetlow Fold. A new lease was granted in 1663 to Reginald Tetlaw, the son (after the death of his father), for three lives—his own, Martha, his wife, and Alice, his daughter.

A family of the name of Reddish at one time held lands in Godley; about the 15th century.

An old hall of the Godley family once stood amidst picturesque surroundings on Godley Hill. Now, however, all signs of the original manor house have vanished, though a quaint building known as the Godley Hall Inn is said to occupy its site.

There is a rather curious stone built into the rockery of the miniature park which has been laid out on the slope of Godley Hill. It is a stone with a history, and it contains this inscription:



The stone originally stood over the entrance to the old "lock-up" in Gee Cross, and on the demolition of that building

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it was for a time retained at the post office. Afterwards it got to Godley, and was discovered some years ago in an old lumber room, from whence it was taken to adorn the ornamental grounds which prove so attractive a feature of the modern township.

THE OLD HYDE CORN MILL.

In the Godley records mention is made of a corn mill that once existed, but of which every trace is lost, so ancient was the structure. Hyde was more fortunate in this respect. The picturesque old corn mill of Hyde, stood, a venerable ruin, up to a few years ago. At one time its situation upon the banks of "the bonnie river Tame" was one of great beauty, and the old mill made a grand addition to the pleasant features of the scenery. It doubtless was the successor of former structures upon or near the same spot, as a corn mill had existed on the river at Hyde from the time of King John. In old days the mill formed an important institution in the township. It enjoyed the patronage and protection of the lords of the manor, and at one time also had a worthy reputation among the poorer people of the neighbourhood. Aiken thus describes it in 1795: "Betwixt the bridge and the house (Hyde Hall) is a mill for grinding corn, for the use of which as well as for that of a water engine on the Lancashire side belonging to some valuable coal mines of Mr. Clarke, is a weir which throws a broad sheet of water to a considerable depth below where it has worked a hole many yards deep and wide. The appearance and noise of this cascade have a romantic effect, and the river for half a mile above is made by it to appear like a lake forming a fine piece of water, well stocked with trout and eels."

Prior to the making of the railroad and the Peak Forest Canal, a winding valley ran from the river almost to where the Hyde Town Hall stands. The sides of the valley were clothed with trees, and the place was known as "Mill Wood" on account of the corn mill being situated at the end of the valley. From this source comes the name of Mill Wood, which is applied to certain iron works, and which puzzles most people as to its origin. The last remnant of the valley has only recently been filled up, and most of the inhabitants of Hyde well know that the streets behind the Town Hall stand upon earth that has been "tipped" there within their own lifetime. Within the author's own recollection, what is now Corporation Street was a deep hollow, with

a brook at the bottom; the sides of the valley being laid as gardens.

But this is a digression. A lady who knew Hyde well, many years ago, thus writes of the old Corn Mill and the Miller: "Any one walking along the river bank could not but be struck with the sound of the 'Old Hundredth' or of one of the Church chants, sounding morning and evening from the mill, as the miller did his task, vibrating through the stately beech trees which towered far above the old building that had been worked by generations of one family—now all gone to rest. The sound was so impressive that I often recall it with very deep feelings. And each Sabbath morning, when the splash of the water-wheels was hushed, there at his cottage door, across the river, could be seen the miller, with his large Bible on his knee, reading aloud to his family. It was a sight not readily forgotten, particularly in summer, with the lilacs and roses in bloom, and the sun shining on the river, and the music of the falling weir coming through the spray."

The above account describes a scene of nearly a century ago, when Hyde was far different from what it is to-day. The millers were a family of Ashtons, who worked the mill for generations, as is evidenced by the registers at Denton Old Church. There are many entries there concerning this family, of which two of the most recent are as follows:—

1796. John, son of Robert Ashton, Miller, of Hyde; born July 18th, baptised August 14th.

1812. Hannah, daughter of John Ashton, Miller, of Haughton, and of Nancy; born August 9th, baptised Sept. 22nd, 1812.

The writer spent many hours in the ruined rooms of the old mill, in the days of childhood. The building then was dilapidated, hoary with age and crumbling to decay. It was, however, of picturesque appearance, and with care would have worn out generations of mortals. When the building was pulled down, the oak beams and floors were purchased by Mr. John Thornely (late of Hyde, now of Wilmslow), and were formed into handsome hall cabinets.

BYE-GONE NEWTON.

The township of Newton was long held by an ancient family of the local name, De Newton. They, like the Godleghs, are said to have taken the name from the township. In the first half of

the reign of Edward I. the township belonged to one Robert de Newton. Thomas de Newton held it in 1302. As early as the 13th century the ownership of Newton seems to have become divided, and the chief lordship was probably held by the Baggeleghs, of whom the Hydes, of Hyde, were close connections.

In the reign of Edward II. Robert de Newton "held in his demesne as of fee the manor of Newton, in Longdendale, of John Hyde, chevaler, Owen ap Owen Viol, William, son and heir of William de Travenol, and Catherine (his wife) daughter of Geoffrey de Honford, lords of Godley, by knights service, etc., etc. . . . ." Beyond records of various law suits but little is known of the succeeding members of the Newton family. One of them is described as a priest, who was a member of the Manchester Collegiate Church. A Sir Peter Newton is also said to have figured at various times in the office of Secretary to the Council of the Earl of Chester. Later, one Alexander de Newton held the manor in the 16th century, and his son, George de Newton, who succeeded, held a captain's rank, and fought with distinction at the siege of Boulogne, in the reign of Henry VIII. The above Alexander de Newton left a rather interesting will, dated 1557, in which he says:—"I bequeath my soule to Almightie God, my maker and Redemer; and my bodie and bones to be buried within the parishe church of Saint Michaell at Mottram. Also I give and bequeath to George Newton, my sonne and heire, for and in the name of heireloomes, two of my best oxen, my best waine (waggon) and wheles; my best silver spones, my best bedd, with the coverynge belonge to the same; a grett panne or a grett brasse pott, with two arks for meyle." He also gave 10s. "for the mendinge of the bell at Mottram," and among the witnesses to the signature is the name of "Sir David Ithell," another instance of the ancient custom of prefixing the knightly title to the priesthood.

Some time later, on the death of John Newton, without heirs, the estates fell to his five sisters as co-heiresses. Ultimately the township was purchased from the Newton family by Sir Charles Dukinfield, Bart., and has since formed part of the Dukinfield estate. The male line of the De Newtons became extinct about the close of the 17th century. Their pedigree is an interesting one to study, and the different generations intermarried with most of the notable local families. There are few records of the

Newtons left, though they seem to have figured, like most of the neighbouring gentry, in the events of their time, and to have occupied the position of little kings on their own manorial domains. The township now forms, with Godley, part of the extended Borough of Hyde. There was once an old hall of some interest situate in Newton, but the advance of commerce and modernizing influence has long since wrought its demolition.

Newton figured prominently in promoting the growth of the cotton industry in our midst. It supplied most of the leading families of cotton masters, and some of the largest mills were formerly erected in the township. Among other items of interest it is claimed that the celebrated "Tim Bobbin" was born here, and the place of his birth is fixed at Harrison Fold. This honour of having introduced to the world the celebrated Mr. Collier, known to fame by the above appellation, is disputed by a well-known Lancashire town. As a matter of fact "Tim Bobbin" was born at Urmston. There is no doubt, however, that he served his apprenticeship in Newton, and this fact is vouched for by several writers of repute. He was apprenticed to a man named Johnson (a dutch-loom weaver of Harrison Fold), on May 22nd, 1722.

Aiken, in his description of a century ago, gives the following brief reference to Newton :—

> "On one side of the moor is a new built row of houses, inhabited by weavers, called Muslin Street, erected from the savings of their industry."

The township was notorious at the time of the Chartist and other riots, and "The Cotton Tree Inn" was probably known all over England as a rendezvous of the operatives when bent upon massing for united action. This inn was established by a Jos. Cash, who, on August 21st, 1833, at midnight, was dragged from his horse and murdered in the lane near his own home. This murder was a mystery throughout, and has never yet been solved. At the inquest it transpired that Cash had been on a journey, and, returning home at night about 10 o'clock, called at a neighbouring tavern, where several men were drinking. A quarrel ensued in the place, and two of the men were turned out. Close on 12 the remaining parties left the house, Cash mounting his horse to ride home. Two hours later he was found by a

carrier lying senseless in the lane, about 20 yards from his own door, and subsequently expired without regaining consciousness. The event was looked on as most extraordinary, even in those days, and on the interment of the body at Mottram, all Newton joined in the procession. The following epitaph was inscribed on Cash's tombstone :—

He was much respected
While here on earth he drew his breath,
And greatly lamented both before and after death.
If he departed this life,
By the assassinator's strife,
The Almighty's will be done,
To you who know his will,
That he have mercy on whom he will.

THE TOWNSHIP OF WERNETH.

This township is written Warnet in the Doomsday survey, and is thus described : - "The Earl (Chester) himself holds"—other manors and—" Warnet as one virgate of land. All is rateable to the gelt. Eight free men held these lands as manors. It was and is all waste." Some time after Doomsday the township passed into the possession of the Stokeport family, who granted lands to the Davenports of Henbury. The Ardens also held lands here at an early period, as did the Booths of Dunham, but the manorial rights appear to have been in the hands of the Davenports. Sergeant Bretland, of Thorncliffe Hall, at one time purchased portions of the township, and in 1768 Wm. Tatton, of Wythenshaw, became owner of lands here. These were subsequently sold to Mr. Andrew, of Compstall.

Werneth township was divided some years ago, and a portion of it—the northern—now forms part of the Borough of Hyde. The village of Gee Cross, which is partly situated in this section of the township, is said to have derived its name from the circumstance of a stone cross having been erected here at an early period, by an ancient and well-to-do family named Gee. Some authorities claim that there never was a cross built here, but that the name owed its origin to an old custom of calling a place "Cross" wherever several roads crossed each other. Hence "Gerrard's Cross," and other like names of places. Aiken refers to the village as "Hyde Chapel or Gee Cross, as it is now generally denominated," seeming to imply that the latter name was of modern origin. In this he was probably mistaken, as the

name Gee Cross was in existence at least one hundred years before the chapel was built. The following entries in the Stockport parish registers prove this :—

1589. March 26. George Gee, of Gee Cross ; buried.
1589. April 6. Reinolde de Ashton, of Gee Cross ; buried.

Both the above are names of families for long holding important positions in the neighbourhood. The wide influence of the Ashtons is elsewhere dealt with, but concerning the family of Gee the following excerpt from the *Stockport Advertiser* of February 12th, 1829, will perhaps be of interest.

On Saturday last a legacy amounting to near £100 left by Miss Elizabeth Gee, the last descendant of the late Benjamin Gee, of Kingsland, Middlesex, and a descendant of the ancient Gee family, of Gee Cross, was distributed by the Rev. Mr. Brooks and Miss Boag, to about 30 aged and industrious poor of the township of Gee Cross.

The village of Gee Cross has played an important part in local history. Among the most important local events of the earlier decades of the century, were the Gee Cross Fairs, which were attended by operatives from far and near. There was an old ballad popular once, which set forth how—

Izaac Fatcake fought his share
For a collop o'bacon at Gee Cross Fair.

Another version of this ballad gives the following :—

Come, all ye farmers far and near,
Of Gee Cross Fair you soon shall hear,
For old Kester Howard, as I've heard them tell,
He brought an ass to the fair for to sell ;
Its wind was broke, its limbs were stark,
And he durst not show till after dark.
Fol lol lay raddle al the de, etc.

At after dark it did come on,
And he praised it for a donn one ;
He primed its tail, and rubbed its throat,
And sold his ass for a one pound note.
Fol lol lay raddle al the de, etc.

There were twenty battles and blows between,
But old *Else Kettle were never seen ;
But Isaac Fatcake fought his share
For to end up of Gee Cross Fair.
Fol lol lay raddle al the de, etc.

*The reason old Else Kettle was never seen was that he was serving time in one of Her Majesty's mansions.

Anent these fairs the following record which came into the writer's hands recently will be read with interest. It is dated 1820 :—

ORDERED.—That a fair will be held at Gee Cross on the 28th day of November and the 28th day of April, annually, when a show of cattle will take place and premiums will be given as follows—(The names of the winners at the first fair are annexed to the list).

					Winners.
For best	In-calf Cow	£1	10	0	Samuel Radcliffe.
,,	,, Heifer... ..	1	0	0	James Tomlinson.
,,	One year old Calf ...	0	10	0	Thomas Redfern.
,,	Three ,, ,, ...	1	1	0	Priscilla Booth.
,,	Two ,, Colt ...	0	10	6	These prizes were not awarded.
,,	Pig	0	5	0	
,,	Long Horned Bull...	1	0	0	

Gee Cross figured with the rest of Hyde in the industrial disputes dealt with elsewhere. There was a tale often told in old days to illustrate the "hot" aspect of the village in these troubled times. It was said that an Irishman once entered Gee Cross, and after being badly handled in a bout of fisticuffs by some of the villagers, responded to an enquiry as to what he thought of the place—"Sure, indeed, there's no cross about it. It ought to be called Gee h——." It is to be hoped the village has improved since this comment was made.

Respecting the earlier history of Werneth township, there is a lengthy mention of Werneth Low in Marriott's "Antiquities of Lyme," published in 1809. The writer says: "Behind the aforementioned (Werneth) Hall, on the top of the highest pinnacle of the Low, are the remains of a barrow. Mistaken or greedy ignorance has demolished it to the very base for the plunder of the stone. The figure of construction, however, remains well defined. It is perfectly circular and measures 90 paces in circumference. Many of the large stones which have composed its base, being less commodious for transportation, remain round its margin, and on one of their sides are blackened as if by the operation of fire." "There is another barrow near Higham Farm."

From other sources come the following. There is a record of a tenure under which, in the reigns of Mary and Elizabeth, the Carringtons held certain lands in Werneth and in Hattersley by the annual tender of a barbed arrow to the heir of Stockport.

There is also a tradition that the Saxons carried on smelting operations in Werneth, the adjacent forests of Hattersley and the neighbouring townships supplying ample fuel for the work. The authority referring to this latter circumstance makes mention also of a Saxon iron furnace situate in Hyde. The Hattersley forests are said to have been most extensive at the time, and to have been converted by the Saxons into charcoal, fragments of which have been discovered on the slopes and in the neighbourhood of Werneth Low. It is claimed that other discoveries, turned up by the plough, point conclusively to the existence of iron furnaces in the district in Saxon times.

OLD-TIME DENTON AND HAUGHTON.

Referring to the townships of Denton and Haughton, a well-known writer to the Chetham publications states that "there are few places in England of which so little early history is known." Beyond the family history of the local land-owners, only a few scattered records of the ancient life of these townships are preserved. In 1273, the 2nd of Edward I., the Abbot of Cockersand was summoned to appear and state before the King by what authority he claimed certain privileges and immunities in Denton and Haughton. He pleaded that he and his monks were absolved from the payments of fines, taxes, etc., by a charter, granted by King John about the year 1215. In the same reign, and before the same King's Commissioners, Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, exhibited a grant made by King John to his ancestor, Roger de Lacy, in 1202, allowing him free warren in Denton. There is a notice of Inquisition on the death of Robert Grelle in 1291, who died siesed of . . . . "two parts of an oxang of land in Denton." In 1322 there is mention of two bovates of heathland in Denton, which Robert de Ashton holds for life for 13s. 0½d. yearly, and the same survey states that the inhabitants of Denton and Haughton contribute to the maintenance of the Lord's bailiff and his under-bailiff. Passing several other items, there is an Inquisition in 1482, on the death of Robert West, Lord de la Warr, who is declared seised of the manor of Manchester and several hamlets, including Denton. The waste lands of Denton—about 292 acres—were enclosed in the later years of Queen Elizabeth, and their appropriation by the adjacent landowners was opposed by the inhabitants and others, who appealed to the Duchy Court about

1596. The distribution of these lands seems to have fallen to the local landowners in the following proportions :—Richard Holland, 79 acres ; Robert Hyde of Hyde and Norbury, 88 acres ; Adam Hulton, 46 acres ; Robert Hyde, of Denton, 38 acres ; Robert Holmes, or Hulmes, 6 acres ; Robert Ashton, 5 acres ; Alexander Reddish, 1 acre ; Ralph Haughton, 22 acres ; Alexander Barlow, 7 acres.

DENTON OLD CHAPEL. *(St. Lawrence's).*

Beyond the above and a few similar records, little is known of the townships in the ancient days, although as early as 1531 the old church or "chappell" of Denton had been founded. This fact in itself is sufficient proof that at that time there were families of no small importance in the township, and that the scattered population was sufficiently great to warrant the building of a place for religious worship. Until the reign of Henry VIII.,

DENTON OLD CHURCH. *(Old Building before restoration).*

Denton was dependent on the mother church of Manchester for its spiritual supervision, but at the date above given, a chapel of ease—the present St. Lawrence's church—was erected at Denton, by the local families of Hyde and Holland. Originally the church was dedicated to St. James, but this was altered to the present name by a late minister—Mr. Greswell.

An old document found in the chapel many years ago gives some rather curious particulars of the building, in addition to a complete survey of the whole land in the townships of Denton and Haughton. The document is inscribed as follows :—

A survey of Denton Common, when it was taken in with every gentleman's parte, where it is situate with the laines thereof. Denton Chappell windows built in 1532, soe it appears 87 years ago, by the writings on the window, that the Chappell was built the year before, soe it is 146 since the Chappell was built. Richard Holland, Esq., founder, appears in the chancell window of the said Denton Chappell.

The timbers of it framed in Hibbert wood by ould men's sayings.

A true coppy of the survey of Denton and Haughton showeth forthe was holden at Manchester, the 9th day of September, in the year of our Lord God 1657.

Signed the following ratepayers,

JOHN LEIGH. HENRY HIGHLY.
GEORGE HEAWOOD. CHARLES JOWETT.

The accompanying plan of the neighbourhood, its lands, lanes and boundaries, is still able to bear the closest scrutiny and stand its ground for accuracy.

The above document, of course, speaks for itself, and the reference to the timbers of which the chapel was constructed, throws an interesting side light on at least one item of local history. It is worthy of note that a piece of the original woodwork which was placed in the writer's hands a short time ago, showed clear signs of having been united to its companion timbers by means of wooden pegs, not of nails or metal fastenings. The fact that this process was carried on thoughout the raising of the structure, is accountable for the somewhat peculiar appellation of "The old Peg," or as the local vernacular has it "Th'owd Peg," long ago given to the chapel and still retained by it.

But the statement as to date is, perhaps, of greatest value. Various periods have been assigned to the foundation of Denton Chapel, and one theory has it that in 1468 it was removed from Hyde Hall, where it had occupied the position of a private chapel of the Hydes, to the site it now stands on. This, however, is scarcely possible, and there is no doubt that it was erected in 1531-2, and that the foregoing item concerning the material for its building is correct. It was built in the half-timbered style known as post and petrel, or as Dentonians term it "raddle and

daub." The framework was composed of huge oaken beams placed deep in the earth, and there were numerous transverse beams, the interstices being filled with twisted boughs known locally as "raddling." This wickerwork was afterwards thickly plastered over with clay mortar (daub), which was well mixed with grass, hay and reeds, to render it more adhesive.

DENTON OLD CHURCH LYCH GATE.

The old fabric has undergone considerable alteration and extension since its erection. In 1728 a gallery was added at the west end of the chapel, the north side of which was to be devoted to "the free use of the present set of psalm singers," a list of whom is given further on The south side was appropriated as follows:—"One pew to be assigned to the minister's house, and the rest such persons as will subscribe the largest sums towards augmenting the minister's salary." Mr. Greswell (appointed to the incumbency in 1791), further renovated the edifice, the walls of which at that period resembled "a riddle." He suggested that the exterior should be cemented and that upright beams should be placed against the old walls, and these filled in with lath and plaster, the old walls being thus encased. The chronicle dealing with the time tells us that—

The labour of restoration having been commenced, the vibration attendant on fixing the beams caused sundry coats of whitewash to start from the walls, when, to the astonishment of the workmen, several words in old English characters were discovered, and on further search under

the superintendence of Mr. Greswell the whole history of Dives and Lazarus taken from an older version of the Scriptures than the authorised edition now in use was discovered written upon the walls. This inscription still remains, but of course concealed by the recent plaster to which the walls were subjected.

Two heraldic shields with the names Hulton de Hulton, and Hyde de Denton, were also at the same time discovered at the east end of the chapel, on removing from the panel the coating of plaster, whereon in modern times the Decalogue had been inscribed.

Hitherto the original form of the building had been little altered, but the subsequent improvements wrought a great transformation. The church was re-pewed about 1859, and in 1873 two transepts and a chancel were added in the same style as the original building. It now consists of a nave, chancel, north and south transepts, with organ chamber, and vestry for clergy and and choir. For beauty of external appearance the church is probably without equal in either Lancashire or Cheshire.

COMMUNION CUPS, DENTON OLD CHURCH.

St. Lawrence's Church possesses, among other interesting relics, "a Communion Cup given to Denton Chapel by Miss Mary Done," a lady of whom it is recorded—"she was a blessed peacemaker, full of good works and alms deeds which she did to the bodies and souls of many." She was a daughter and co-heiress of Sir John Done, of Utkington, and sister to that Eleanor, wife of Ralph Arden, who was interred in Denton Chapel in 1666. For a time Mary Done resided with her sister at Arden Hall, and in 1636 married John Crew, Esq. Her life and work are commemorated by a monument in Tarporley Church. With the communion plate there is also a cup of much more ancient design, bearing on its outer circumference the inscription: "The Coppe for the Lord's Table." This cup was associated with the services of the Church

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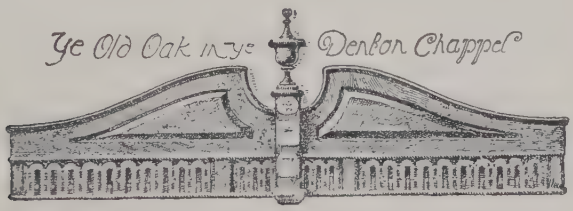
in earlier times. Illustrations of both are given, as well as of the old oak carving with which the walls and galleries of the Church were formerly ornamented. The panel, of which a representation is appended, is one of a number of arabesque carvings now forming the front of the choir stalls in the chancel. In the middle of the last century these panels were placed in front of the "singers' gallery" at the west end of the Church, but are supposed to have originally figured as ornamental ends of the old stalls or pews. The other sample of oak-work here given is the ornamental head of the old pew of the Chapel wardens, to which, in the last century, was affixed an oval brass medallion thus inscribed: "Robert Lees, Joseph Torkington, Chappell-wardens, 1726."

OLD OAK,
DENTON OLD CHURCH.



A curious feature of Denton Old Chapel was a small box or pew built to the north wall, and opening into the interior of the Chapel by an aperture near the pulpit, access being obtained from without by a flight of steps in the Chapel-yard. It was erected in 1676 by Robert Hyde, Esq., for the reasons which are evidenced in the following correspondence:—

Honoured Sir,

My due respects premised:—I understand by a neighbour Daniel Hobson, of Haughton, by name, upon Monday last that you are much displeased and offended with me for building a little place joined to the outside of the chapel upon the north side, only four feet square, and fixed to the side where I have two forms within the chapel. The occasion of this building was only the decay of my hearing, especially on the left ear, being aged 72 years and somewhat past, for that I could neither hear the chaptors nor psalms when read, nor hear the prayers, nor beginning of the

sermon, the minister's voice being much decayed by reason of his age—and merely for my better hearing and edification, I made this building, whereby never a seat in the chapel hath any injury nor any person hath any prejudice in the least;—and had I thought that you or any person would have been offended I would not have done it, and were it to do again I would not do it. I confess I was to blame that I did not acquaint you with it before I did it; but I dare appeal to your own judgment, if at any time you please to come over upon your own occasion and view it, whether I have done any injury to any person whoever. Moreover, I being on the same date at the funeral of John Cheetham, your under-tenant to young John Taylor, he told me your man John Ward had told him that you were much displeased at the assessment agreed by the neighbours of both towns, Denton and Haughton, for the repair of the chapel bell and that you would withdraw your countenance from Mr. Angier if the monies were not repaid, or words to that purpose. The truth is I desired the chapelwarden to come to you and acquaint you with the necessity of that repair before any work was done about it, which it seems he did not, and for which he is much to blame. But give me leave to tell you that it was a work so necessary to be done (and the charge was but a fourth part of a quarter's wage throughout the chapelry) that if it had not been done speedily, the bell had been in danger to have fallen and been spoiled; and the bell-house by end of the chapel; for almost all the iron bands that fasten the bell to the stock were rust and broken from it, and the wall was rotten; and if we had not been forced to have cast the bell anew and to have repaired the bell-house and chapel end, it would have cost the chapelry above 20 marks, and I believe, rather than you should withdraw your countenance, some few persons in the chapelry would repay your part of the charges. And I do hereby promise that whilst I live in Denton there shall be nothing done in or about the chapel, but with your approval and consent first obtained. I shall take it as a great favour if you write a line or two back by the bearer, sent purposely to know your pleasure, and I so remain, sir,

Your friend and humble servant,

Robert Hyde.

November 15, 1676.

Addressed—"These ffor his honoured ffriend William Holland, Esq., and Rector of Malpas."

Endorsed—"Robert Hyde, Esq., letter to Mr. William Holland about his encroachment in building a box of 4ft. square up to the side of Denton Chappel."

To this letter Mr. Holland replied as follows :—

I make this return :—That I have no desire to quarrel with my neighbours appears from the tameness I have showed in great incitements; but continued provocations baffle any patience and an hard treading will cause the turning of a worm. Sir, it hath been a wonder to others as well as myself that having so considerable an interest in the chapelry I have been laid aside in the consideration of transactions here. 'Tis true I live at a distance, and it may be the product of designing influence to cut me

at all. To prevent this, as I know, so I must notice my concerns more than I have done. As to particulars,—'tis true I heard of the excrescence or wen you added to the body of the chapel, but I reserved the declaring of my sentiments about it till I had taken an ocular view of it, and so did not (as some say) give out that it should be pulled down. Next as to the lay assessment tax or imposition (I know not by what title to dignify it) I had not so much respect given me (though both self and tenants were concerned in that neighbourly act) as to know upon what account we were then taxed; nor was it intended I should have any notice of it or give any concurrence to it, since warning to the chapelry to meet was given on the Saturday and the meeting appointed on Monday, May 29th, which of necessity must exclude any notice or concurrence of mine. Nor since that time have I ever had the civility or an address. But at last, by frequent attempts my man was overcome to pay the tax; whereupon I told him his forwardness had . . . . me and himself, for I would not pay it—and thus made a significat of my mind to the chapel. But I disown any speech of mine tending to withdraw my kindness to Mr. Angier, well knowing if Titus offend Sempronius is not to suffer. This much resembles the story of Daniel Hobson touching my resentment of your additional building—whereas my thoughts of it had not been clothed with language.

The pew in question was done away with when the last alterations to the chapel were carried out.

Further correspondence relating to St. Lawrence's is given in Booker's "History of the Ancient Chapelrie of Denton," which is by far the best work yet written upon the subject. This splendid book contains practically all that may be said concerning the ancient history of the chapel, and reflects the greatest credit on its author. The additional correspondence alluded to, gives letters from Anne Hyde, the daughter of Sir R. Brooke, knight, of Norton Priory, who married Edward Hyde, of Hyde Hall (a prominent supporter of the Parliament in the Civil War). This lady took a keen interest in the affairs of the district and most jealously guarded her rights in reference to Denton Chapel.

There has been a long line of ministers associated with the church, and a list of these is given here.

THE MINISTERS OF DENTON CHAPEL.

1533—Sir Roger Ward
1597-1600—Adam Mellor
1600-1616—Mrm. Tylecoutes
1617-1631—Charles Broxholme
1632-1677—John Angier
1677-1678—John Ogden
1678-1691—Roger Dale
1691-1695—Joshua Hyde
1695-1696—Noah Kinsey
1696-1707—Daniel Pighells
1707-1709—John Berry
1709-1720—John Jackson
1720-1722— —— Grey
1723-1750—Joseph Dale
1750-1759—William Williams
1759-1791—William Jackson
1791-1853—Wm. Parr Greswell
1853-1869—Walter Nicholl
1869-1881—Charles James Bowen
1881- —David Rowe (present rector)

The gift of the living of Denton was originally in the hands of the founders of the church, and it would appear that frequent disputes arose between those individuals in regard to the patronage. The "rectory" of St. Lawrence is an institution of recent date, and the early ministers were styled curates. Another claim for the right of choice of these curates was long upheld by the Wardens and Fellows of Manchester, and the disputes anent the bestowal of the living were carried on for generations.

The first resident minister of the foregoing list was the Rev. C. Broxholme, a native of Lincoln and sometime curate of Derby. He was the brother of the then member of Parliament for Derby. Owing to his religious belief he was suspended by the Bishop in 1631.

The Rev. John Angier—who succeeded Mr. Broxholme—was an Essex man, the son of a clothier, and was born at Dedham in 1605. He married at Boston Parish Church, Lincolnshire, on April 16th, 1628, Ellen Winstanley, a native of Wigan, Lancashire. Mr. Angier's first ministry was at Ringley, where he remained a short time only, removing to Denton in 1632. Here he preached his first sermon in the Chapel on Easter Sunday in that year, when there were present to hear him, Mr. Holland of Denton, Mr. Hyde of Denton, and Mr. Hyde of Hyde and Norbury. On his appointment to the living at Denton Mr. Angier avowed his allegiance to the cause of Nonconformity in regard to ceremonies. This led him into a long course of disputes with the Bishop and others; but he continued to hold the curacy until his death. Though sympathising with the Parliament in the struggle that then took place, he was at heart a staunch Royalist. He published during his stay in Denton a book, entitled "A Help for Stout Hearts for

Better Times." His long tenure of the ministry—45 years—and his devoted labours through all that time, greatly endeared him to the hearts of his parishioners, and at his death a cloud of grief and sorrow hung above the village. An account of the burial states :—

Ah, what lamentation was there at his funeral! Amongst the rest an ancient Christian came from the grave into the house after the funeral, with a trembling body, weeping eyes, and with a doleful voice of sad complaints, saying "Ah, sirs, what must we do! what must we do! our loving Pastor is gone, our loving Pastor is gone!" The sad countenances and weeping eyes of that day, with that affecting passage of that good old man's bemoaning, cannot be easily forgotten.

In some of his last words (which have been preserved) Mr. Angier thus touchingly resigned his people into his Heavenly Father's hands—

Thine they were, and Thou hast committed them to me, Thy poor servant; for this 46 years I have been labouring among them; according to my poor ability I have endeavoured to bring them over to Thee; now I am to be no more with them. Father, I commit them to Thee again, as I have done many a time; take Thou the charge of them, see to them, provide for them; let many souls be brought into Thy Kingdom of grace, and made fit for Thy Kingdom of glory.

REV. SAMUEL ANGIER.

Prior to his death, Mr. Angier expressed a wish that his nephew, the Rev. Samuel Angier (who for some years had been

his assistant curate, and who was ordained in 1672), should succeed him. Samuel Angier, however, had declared himself so decidedly in favour of Nonconformity that the living was bestowed on the Rev. John Ogden, who figures next on the list already given. The Rev. Samuel Angier refused to give the curacy to its rightful owners, and for seven months remained at the parsonage. Ultimately he requested a little time in which to accomplish his removal, but at the end of three months more he was still in occupancy. The officials and people, by this, were beginning to lose patience, as well as to grow indignant, and in August, 1678, Mr. Angier removed to Dukinfield, where he remained until his death.

Mr. Ogden and his successor, the Rev. Roger Dale, failed to secure the good graces of their parishioners. The former left in a year's time, and though the latter remained until 1691, he was far from comfortable in his office. There is nothing worthy of note regarding the two next occupiers of the curacy. Mr. Hyde left after four years' residence in Denton, and Mr. Kinsey died after holding the ministry for a few months. He was buried in the aisle of the Chapel.

Passing over the four succeeding ministers we come to the Rev. Joseph Dale, who was, prior to his appointment, a schoolmaster at the Stockport Grammar School. His appointment was the outcome of a petition sent by the inhabitants of Denton, to the patron, soliciting, on Mr. Dale's behalf, the gift of the chapel living. In a letter sent by a Mr. Shrigley, a lawyer, to the then Chancellor of the Diocese, concerning the appointment, is the following passage :—

> He (Mr. Dale) is a man able to do service to the Church in the chapelry famous for conceited and hardened Sectaries . . . . The chapel has been sadly neglected, and there are three conventicles near it, but I dare say Mr. Dale will bend if not break 'em.

Mr. Dale held the appointment until 1750, when he was succeeded by Mr. Williams, who died after nine years' possession. The Rev. W. Jackson, B.A., who followed, was master of Stockport Grammar School up to his death, in 1791. His successor was the Rev. William Parr Greswell, who held the curacy for over 60 years, and whose figure and work are still remembered by the old inhabitants of Denton.

Mr. Greswell was the son of John Greswell, of Chester, and was born in 1765. He was a man of high scholastic attainments, and united to his clerical duty that of a private tutor. So well did he discharge this latter task, that of his seven sons, who received the chief part of their education from their father, five took the highest degrees at their Universities, a sixth became a doctor of medicine, and the last the master of the Chetham Hospital in Manchester. Mr. Greswell was an author of some note, and among his works are "Memoirs of Angelus Politanus," "Annals of Parisian Typography," "The Monastery of St. Werberg," a poem, "Rodrigo," a Spanish Legend, "A View of the Early Parisian Greek Press," etc., etc. He possessed a remarkable library, containing many rare old works, and a book-case ornamented by panels made from fragments of the old yew tree which formerly stood in Denton Chapelyard. In 1853, the year before his death, Mr. Greswell resigned his curacy, the Bishop attending on the occasion to receive from his hands the office he had held unsullied from the year 1791. Mr. Greswell was buried in the chapel yard.

The Rev. W. Nichol, who succeeded, was a Scotchman, and a most energetic worker. Besides his work at the Old Chapel, he conducted services in the Iron Schools at Haughton. In his days the perpetual curacy at Denton was converted to a rectory. His health giving way under the strain of his work in Denton, he accepted an appointment in Devonshire, and was succeeded in 1869 by the Rev. C. J. Bowen, a man who occupied a leading place in the public life of the neighbourhood. Mr. Bowen was returned by a large majority at the first election of the Local Board of Haughton, and was chosen by the members as their first chairman. During his time the chapel was enlarged and otherwise greatly improved, a chancel and two transepts were added with vestries for the clergy and wardens. The improvements were done at a cost of £3,000 which was raised by public subscriptions.

In 1881, Mr. Bowen exchanged livings with the Rev. David Rowe, then rector of Wroot, in Lincolnshire, who still holds the appointment.

Mr. Rowe, the present rector, descends from an ancient Devonshire family, and was born at Derby. His immediate

ancestors had settled in the West Indies, becoming the owners of extensive coffee plantations in Jamaica. Mr. Rowe in 1867 entered the ministry in Jamaica, where his father was archdeacon. Coming to England in 1870, he was, in the following year, appointed vicar of St. John's, Kilburn, afterwards removing to the rectory of Hale, Surrey, In 1879 he went to Wroot, to exchange that living two years later for the rectory of St. Lawrence. Here his labours during 18 years have won for him the respect and esteem of all classes of Denton people. The ministers of

DENTON OLD CHURCH (*Present Building*).

Denton, in old time, were housed in a parsonage erected in the chapelyard, built and endowed by one Edward Holland. Mr. Angier lived in this building, and his successors occupied it until near the end of the 18th century, when it was abandoned as a residence for the clergy. Subsequently it was used as an inn; then turned into cottage property, and finally pulled down about 1853, when its sight was added to the chapel yard. The value of the living in Mr. Angier's days was less than £20, and in 1650 it is put down at £5 16s. 0d. a year, exclusive of voluntary contributions. In 1704, including these it only amounted to £15 per annum, and in 1791 was only worth £60 18s. 6d. Now it is estimated at £350 a year.

An old return, in the days of Mr. Angier, gives the following:

Denton—Chap vt supra, 7 miles and qr. Chapelry: 5*l.* in stocke. A gift. A house and garden, 00*l* : 16 : 00. Incumbent, Mr. John Angier, a painful godly preaching minister.

THE DENTON CHAPEL REGISTERS.

Some interesting statements of accounts concerning the annual expenditure of the Denton Chapelwardens have been preserved. Almost the same items occur in each succeeding statement, with but slight difference in the amounts expended on on them. One example will suffice.

DENTON CHAPEL IN 1763.—Disbursed for the repairs of Denton Chapel and other necessary changes thereto belonging, for the year last past, by Robert Fidler, chapel warden:—

	£	s.	d.
Paid the first visitation fees	00	4	0
,, the second visitation fees	00	1	9
,, for attending three visitations	00	3	0
,, for bread and wine whole year	00	10	2¼
,, for treating the old chapel wardens, together with the clerk, the Sunday after I came into office	00	2	0
,, for treating a strange minister	00	0	5
,, for repairing the key for the chapel door	00	0	3
,, for three iron plates for the chapel door	00	2	3
,, for repairing the church gates	00	0	4
Given to the singers	00	1	0
Paid for the rushbearing	00	7	0
Spent at carting the minister's coals	00	5	6
Paid for a form of prayer and thanksgiving for the Queen	00	0	4
,, for an order to alter ye prayers ye royal family	00	0	4
,, for a thanksgiving for taking ye Havannah	00	0	4
,, for a lock for ye school door and repairing ye pulpit	00	1	2
,, for washing the surplice	00	2	0
,, for a copy of the register upon parchment	00	0	9
,, for cleaning the chapel the whole year	00	1	0
,, for drawing bay book and accounts	00	1	0
,, for ringing on ye 5th of November	00	0	10
,, for fencing and cleaning the yard	00	1	0
	£02	6	5¼

Fourteen years later (1777) a report of a ratepayers' meeting records—"At a public meeting this day it is agreed by us, the inhabitants of Denton, that nothing shall be allowed by the

Chapelwarden for the rushbearing nor for the ringing on the 5th of November, nor on Sundays, nor to buy the saxe and shovel, nor treating the ringers nor clerk; as witness our hands, inhabitants: William Bromeley, Joshua Rylance, Samuel Cooke, Isaac Ridley, Robert Fidler, William Fidler, John Cooke, Joshua Albeson, John Lees, Samuel Hopwood."

Among other curious items concerning the church and life at Denton in the olden time, are the following extracts from the the registers. The old books are in excellent preservation, consisting of stout parchment leaves, and the writing is quite legible. In one or two instances the writer's signature is affixed to the entry.

1692. Mr. Ward's charges.

	£	s.	d.
Wm. Scott, for the new bell, being 226lb., the old 223lb., att 6d. a pound for casting and 12d. a pound for new	05	14	06
Francis Wrigley for hanging the bell	00	02	00
ffor carriage of ye bell to and from Manchester	00	01	00
ffor expenses in waying ye bell, old and new	00	01	00
Spent at hanging of ye bell by order of ye chappell wardens	00	01	00
1694. Pd. for Wethercoke	00	02	00

1701. Sept. 25. Collected then by us towards ye Captives within ye dominion of ye Emperour of ffez and Morocooe ye sum of three shillings and eightpence.—Dan Pighells, min. de Denton.

1704.—Dec. 4th. Bur Susannah Cooke of Houghton, a wandering vagabond out of Hyde.

1712.—March 8. Sunday, ye day of Her Majesty Queen Anne's accession to ye crown. Solomon ye seventh son of John Tetlow, of Houghton, who were all then alive and there present with their father and mother, grandmother, etc., and was ye first yt was baptised in ye new font given by Holland Egerton, Esq.

1714-15.—Feb 1 (Tuesday). A^{bt} noon there happened a violent and terrible storm of wind w^{ch} shattered and blew down y^{e} highest and greatest part of y^{e} Yew Tree in y^{e} Chap^{ll} yard w^{ch} before was supposed to be one of y^{e} noblest and largest in y^{e} Kingdom, being a very great ornament as well as shelter to y^{e} Chappell.

1772.—George Clark son of Geo. Hyde Clarke the younger Esq., and Katherin his wife born April 28th 1768 and christened in the parish of St John at Dijon in Burgundy was at the instance of his father and mother rechristened in the chapel at Denton this 19 day of July 1772.

Edward Clarke son of George Hyde Clarke the younger & Katherin his wife, born Nov 28th 1770 & christened in the Parish of St Peters at Lyons was at the instance of his father and mother rechristened at the chapell at Denton this 19th d$_{y}$ of July 1772.

Hector Hyde a negro servant of the said George Hyde Clarke aged 14 years was baptised at the chapell at Denton the 19 d$_y$ of July 1772.

The chapel contains several memorial tablets, though none of very striking character. In one wing there is a tablet of grey Derbyshire marble, containing this inscription :—

Near this place lyeth the body of Dame Mary Asheton widow & Relict of Sr Ralph Asheton of Middleton Barr^t and daughter and heiress of Robert Hyde late of Denton Esq. She died at London 16th of June 1721 & was buried here the 6th of July following.

Above this is a shield bearing the arms of the Asshetons of Middleton, and one bearing the arms of Hyde.

The entry in the Parish register concerning the above interment reads thus :—

1721.—June 16. Bur the Hon^{ble} Lady Mary Ashton who departed this life at Kingsinton and was interred the 6 of July att Denton Chappell.

There is an inscription in Latin to the memory of Edward Holland, only son of Colonel Holland and his wife Anne, daughter of Edward Warren, of Poynton; a slab, half defaced, commemorating Eleanor Arden, with the date 1666; and one or two monuments of lesser note to some of the old parsons of Denton.

It was at Denton Chapel on September 21st, 1689, that the famous Colonel Robert Dukinfield, of Dukinfield, Governor of Chester Castle and one of the Members of Parliament for Chester, was buried, but the site of his grave is now uncertain.

It is said that the authorities of the Chapel refused interment to the bodies of three persons who died in Town Lane in 1666. These persons were victims of the Great Plague which ravaged London at that time, and having friends in Denton, they fled from the capital to take up their residence in Town Lane, where they shortly afterwards died. Eventually they were buried, along with their wearing apparel, in a field near the house. The precise spot of their interment is still pointed out.

An Old List of Singers.

Ye names and number of all ye singers at Denton Chapel, Anno Domini 1728:—Ye names of ye trebles, October ye 3rd: Mary Tetlow

Mary Hyde, Mary Robinson, Margaret Newton, Mary Holker, Anne Stopford, Elizabeth Garset, John Wharmby, Samuel Barlow, James Smith. Ye names of ye counters: George Walker, Isaac Gee, Solomon Tetlow, George Hyde, John Bromley, William Bromley, John Ashton, John Lees, Nicholas Bromley. Ye names of ye tenors: Joseph Ashton, James Clayton, John Bardsley, Robert Hardey, James Tetlow, James Robinson, John Hudson, Samuel Bardsley, Samuel Tetlow, John Marland, Robert Fidler, Joseph Bardsley, Thomas Stopert, Mich Hulton. Ye names of ye bass: John Beswick, Henry Hyde, Thomas Torkington, William Fidler, John Lees, John Worth, Peter Hyde, Joseph Gilham. The following lines were composed and affixed to the list of names given above:—

That we may live and loved be,
Whilst we on earth do stay,
Strike up, brave boys, to every part,
Then sing and play away.

The Poor Widow at Denton in 1753.

May the 14th bought the goods following for the use of Lydia Stopford, widow, by John Lees, Overseer of the poor of Denton.

	£	s.	d.
Pd for one pair of bedstocks, chaffed two sheets, two bolsters, and one rug	00	6	0
One piggon wheel and cards	00	2	0
One spinning wheel and cards	00	2	0
One Drashin, one three-footed stool	00	0	6
One Fire iron bar and Tongues	00	5	6
One square table	00	1	0
Two rush buttomed chairs	00	2	0
Three mugs and some pots	00	1	0
Paid for the whole	01	0	0

THE DENTON YEW TREE.

The downfall of this tree is referred to in one of the foregoing extracts from the chapel registers. The *Gentleman's Magazine* for December, 1796, contains a view of the church, which shows the old Yew Tree and the stone seat surrounding it. Mr. Greswell's brother thus writes concerning it:—"The venerable yew tree which till lately reared its aged form about the middle of the south side of the chapelyard was an object truly interesting. Its boughs extended one way over the gates which open in the chapelyard, and on another over the ponderous roof of the chapel. Its trunk was surrounded by a stone seat, where the fathers of the hamlet found repose and shade on their assembling together in expectation of the commencement of divine service.

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In 1800 a sacrilegious hand, unpermitted by ministers or wardens, cut it down. George Hyde Clarke, of Hyde Hall, in 1801, planted another on nearly the same spot, and enclosed it with a stone wall and iron palisades."

A DENTON MEETING IN 1778.

The following is a somewhat curious report of a public meeting held in Denton 120 years ago :—

April 20th, 1778. At a public meeting it is agreed by us, the inhabitants of Denton, that any person that setts a house that is under 10/- per year to any person that does not belong to the township of Denton, that if that person should take a prentice, then in such case if the owner of the house do not remove the tenant, It is agreed by us that his or any of our houses shall be sesed after 4/- per pound. As witness our hands, the inhabitants of Denton, William Bromeley, Samuel Cooke, Robt. Cooke, Nicholas Bromeley, John Cooke, Samuel Hopwood, Isaac Ridley, James Fogg, Joshua Abbson, John Lees.

A Curious Discovery.—A curious discovery was made, now many years ago, when the Chapel House Inn, Denton, was undergoing certain alterations. It appears that, on turning over a stone slab, next the slop-stone, there was found upon it the following :—

"1817.
Nancy Cottrill.
May the wings of liberty never be clip'd."

The lady named above was the deceased wife of the old sexton at St. Lawrence's, who died in 1831, after having filled the post for 30 years, and it would seem that her tombstone had somehow found its way into the hostelry across the road, where it was doing duty as a kind of bench.

OLD CUSTOMS.

Denton, like other old places, had its annual rush-bearing festivals. Originally, the villagers vied with one another in preparing "bolts" of rushes, decorated with "poseys," and these, after being carried to the chapel, were placed on the floor, to keep the feet of worshippers warm through the ensuing winter. In later days the rushes were placed upon a cart, and after having been carried through the village, were deposited at the chapel gates, being spread beneath the seats on the Friday before the Wakes. On Wakes Sunday, the morris dancers attended service and a suitable sermon was preached. A man named William Smith, of old Harry Burn, near the site of Christ Church, was once famous as a maker of rush-carts. Bull-baiting prevailed at the Wakes, and there is a record of a "bait" held at the Bowling

Green Inn as late as 1831. The stocks also were to the fore in the township, and were erected in 1799, being inscribed with the initials of the chapel wardens, one of whom was George Bowler, of Haughton. One Sunday afternoon, about the year of Nelson's death at Trafalgar, one Robert Booth was confined in the stocks for being drunk and causing a disturbance during divine service. On this occasion the school children brought straw for the prisoner to lie on, being under the impression that he would have to remain out all night.

OLD DENTON BUILDINGS.

In addition to its ancient church, Denton formerly possessed several rare specimens of old world architecture. Some of the most interesting of these buildings stood with a gable end abutting on the west front of the old chapel. They consisted of a long straggling row of four cottages and a barn. They were built in

COTTAGES AT DENTON CHAPEL.

a line with the chapel, and were probably of as old a date as the sacred edifice itself. The end cottage, which had an entrance from the graveyard, was once used as a public-house, under the sign of "The Millstones"; and in the large chamber over this house the annual Town's Meetings were held. Some of the cottages were formerly used as Tithe offices. With their thatched

roofs and white-washed walls, they formed picturesque ornaments of the neighbourhood. For generations they were inhabited by a family of the name of Arrandale, but were pulled down about the middle of the present century.

A short distance from the site of these cottages, there still stands, in Town Lane, the substantial brick building which for generations was the residence of the Lees. The house is a fine example of the better class homestead used by the old race of yeomen. A little further down the lane, on the opposite side of the road, are some old hatworks with a stone tablet inscribed S.M.C., 1697, the initials being those of Samuel and Mary Cook, and the date that of the erection. This structure was originally a farmhouse, as was also the building of somewhat singular appearance, which stands nearly opposite on the right of the lane. The building last mentioned, formerly known as the "Newhouse," was converted to a hatworks by the addition of a third story, and the deep advanced porch was built up in the form of a tower. On the entrance lintel of the porch is a stone, carved with the representation of a plume of feathers and the initials and date T.L., E.L., 1667, probably commemorating its erection by Thomas Lees and his wife Elizabeth. The family of Lees had several branches in Denton about this time. In 1645 there occurs Thomas Lees of Bight Banks, Thomas Lees de Town Lane, and John his

YEW TREE FARM.

son, and Thomas Lees de Newhouse. It was to the Lees family that tradition assigns the visit of fugitives from the Great Plague of London, in the middle of the 17th century. Bight Banks is said to be the ancient name of the homestead latterly known as Yew

Tree Farm, which stood up the short lane to the right of Stockport Road, and of which an illustration is appended. The house was a half timbered structure rising from an ashlar foundation, and formerly contained some quaint old windows. It was demolished in 1899.

Another local curiosity which, for nearly half a century, formed one of the village attractions of Denton, consisted of a pair of immense whale ribs commonly spoken of as

"THE WHALEBONES."

These did duty as gate posts at a spot adjoining Messrs. Booth and Moores hatworks, Hyde Road. The bones were placed in an upright position near Broome House, in 1816, by Mr. Richard Bond, of the firm of Bond, Bromley, and Peacock. In 1865 Messrs. Booth, Moores, and Marlor required the land for building purposes, and finding it necessary to remove the relics, presented them to Messrs. Jennison, of Belle Vue. Mr. Bond, who brought them to Denton, was killed by a fall from his horse when returning from Manchester in 1821, and was buried on the south side of Denton Chapel.

A place so typical of old Lancashire village life as Denton, is not without its humorous aspects of local history, and among the fragments of past days many queer tales are told of the

DENTON AND HAUGHTON VOLUNTEERS

of a hundred years ago. Mr. Samuel Hadfield, in his scattered jottings on Denton things, has an article dealing specially with these warriors. They were enlisted at the time when England was threatened with an invasion of the French, and they numbered some sixty men all told—no insignificant force for a meagre hatting village. Their zeal for the safety of their country was so great that not even the Sabbath day could pass without the sound of martial music, and the mustering of the local men of war. Principally, however, they seem to have been successful in providing humour for the general public. Their captain, we are told, was frequently tripped up through the entangling of his legs and sword. On one occasion they were ordered to march to Macclesfield, which place seemed so distant that most of their friends believed they were destined for foreign service, and the

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air was heavy with grief and wailing, and the sighings of farewell. Their stay was of three weeks' duration—so long that one of the number asked a furlough to see his sweetheart. Others distinguished themselves in fashions equally glorious. Eventually they returned, and the whole village trooped out to Stockport to welcome them on their lives being spared. The chronicles speak of their fine appearance in the Castle Yard of the latter town, which was lined round with tubs of beer, in which every man dipped to quench his thirst. There is a list of the corps preserved—both officers and men, and a glance down its columns shows many names of local use to-day.

Half a century later the village gave birth to another volunteer band—destined to render useful service to the township—in the shape of the

DENTON AND HAUGHTON FIRE BRIGADE.

This Brigade was the outcome of a letter written to the local press by Mr. Samuel Hadfield on November 23rd, 1864, in which the writer called attention to the numerous fires that had lately occurred, and the incapacity of the township to deal with them. A meeting was held in the Red Lion Hotel, Crown Point, on Tuesday, November 27th, 1864, when it was deemed desirable to establish a fire brigade, and the following were appointed a committee to carry out this project:—Bigland Bowler, T. Walker, sen., John Bradbury, Mark Taylor, Peter Rothwell, Charles Marlor, Frederick Cooke, and George Kirkpatrick. Other meetings were held subsequently, and by Shrove Tuesday, 1865, the inauguration of the brigade was complete. The following is the first list of officers of the Denton and Haughton Volunteer Fire Brigade:—John Bradbury, Captain; Josiah Walker, Sergeant; John Cooke, Corporal; No. 1, Samuel Parsonage; 2, Joseph Walker; 3, Arthur Watson; 4, Edwin Fidler; 5, William Hopwood. 6, John Knowles; 7, Robert Hall; 8, John Chadwick; 9, John Hulme.

MODERN DENTON.

Denton, like every place about Cottonopolis, has changed greatly in the last few decades, but it retains more evidences of its byegone life than most of the neighbouring towns. It still possesses remnants of the rich woodland which once occupied a

great portion of the township, and the illustrations of well-known Denton places give ample proof of the delightful character of its old-world pictures. The population, of course, has largely increased. A return made in 1645 gives 34 houses in the township, with 170 of a population. In 1774 there were 116 families, 597 persons and 111 houses. In 1801 the number of people was 1,362, and in 1851 it had increased to 3,147. In 1861 the number was 3,335, and in 1871, 5,117. At the last census, in 1891, there were 8,666 people in 1,813 inhabited houses.

CROWN POINT, DENTON, ABOUT 1835.

The annual value of real property in the township in 1692 was £378; to-day the rateable value of Denton is £31,780.

Denton owes its rise to the progress of the hatting industry, in which it was one of the earliest places to embark. Denton hats, and the tricks of the jolly Denton hatters, are proverbial. The staple industry of the place was largely carried on as early as the 17th century, and, having been developed in later days, Denton now occupies a leading—if not the leading—position in the hatting world. The trade has fluctuated from time to time, and Booker, in his history, speaks of the decline of hatting in his day, stating that whereas in 1825 there were 20 hat masters in the township, in 1854 they had dwindled down to 12. To-day,

however, there are no signs of diminution or decay, and to all appearance Denton is well able to hold its own with any other hatting centre in the world.

The Bertenshaws, of Haughton Green, seem to have been the earliest known local hat masters, and were established 200 years ago. In 1800 the following firms were working:—J. R. and A. Bentley; Bond, Bromley, & Peacock; George Bowler and Co., and Ashworths. The oldest of these is stated by Booker to have been Bond, Bromley, & Peacock, who commenced about 1792. The firms increased to 20 in 1825, but 30 years later, owing to the depression in trade, were reduced to 12. This depression was mainly caused by the change of fashion, and the substitution of the silk hat for the felt, hundreds of hatters being thrown out of employment. But the crisis was at length passed, and the manufacture of the silk hat is now an important feature. The decade following Booker's history saw a wonderful increase in the number of hatting firms, and the last 30 years has added largely to the total. The following list of manufacturers for 1899 is certainly imposing:—Booth & Moores; James Bromley; J. Bevan & Co.; Lees Broadbent; Bailey Bros.; Lewis Barber; Cooke Bros.; Cooke, Smith, & Co.; Dunks, Wrigley, and Marsh; Dixons'; J. Farron & Co.; Joseph Horsfield & Sons; Higginbotham & Oldham; Luke Taylor Hibbert; James Howe and Sons; Lancashire Felt Co. (J. Pintner, Esq., manager); Marshall & Co.; Charles Marlor & Son; Jonathan Moores & Sons; Moores, Birkby, & Brown; Norbury & Co.; Ratcliffe & Ogden; Taylor Bros.; W. Wilson & Sons; Nathan Wild & Sons; Wild and Brown; West End Hat Company; Woolfenden & Co.; Dane Bank; Wild & Booth; Joseph Wilson & Sons; Sam Wild; Walker, Ashworth, & Linney; T. and W. Walker & Co.; Edwin Wild. Manufacturers of Hat Trimming: T. and W. Bracher and Co. and George Shaw.

The town has not been stagnant in other ways. Along with Haughton it has seen the cotton industry rise and flourish, and other useful trades have taken root. In matters of local government and public institutions Denton has kept good pace with the times. Up to recent years it was governed by a Local Board of Health first elected in 1857. The members of the initial board were Wm. Peacock, John Bentley, Isaac Booth, Joseph Baxendale, John Gould, Samuel Lees, John Peacock, John Taylor, Mark Taylor, John Thornhill, James Baxendale, and John Irwin (Clerk).

In 1884, on September 29th, the goverment of the townships of Denton and Haughton was amalgamated under the Denton and Haughton Local Board, which first consisted of Jonathan Moores (Chairman), M. Taylor, Peter Rothwell, J. Wild, E. Walker, J. Wrigley, Jas. Woolfenden, Lees Broadbent, Thos. Walker, Wm. Woolley, Elijah Hyde, H. Trubshaw, S. Taylor, J. H. Hegginbotham, J. Wooley, and Jno. Richards (Clerk).

This Board too has died away, and is now represented with much larger powers by the Urban District Council. The first election under the new scheme took place in December, 1894, in which year the name of Haughton was struck out of the title of the governing body, and the townships were formally merged under the name of Denton. The first Urban District Council was elected by the ratepayers as under, the order given being that occupied as the result of the polling. Lees Broadbent, Rev. L. Scott, W. Howe, J. Moores, T. Woolfenden, Ed. Oldham, H. Trubshaw, Peter Rothwell, F. Bailey, Elijah Hyde, P. Richardson, C. Birch, J. Marsden, W. W. Cooke, and W. F. Chambers. Mr. W. Howe was elected chairman. This was the first occasion on which the elections had been fought on political lines.

As before stated the general appearance of Denton has greatly altered. Its public buildings have increased, and to day, for a town still unincorporated, it stands in the highest ranks in this respect. Doubtless ere long it will boast its corporation and its mayor, and further development in public welfare will be made.

Chairmen of the Denton Local Board of Health from its constitution to the amalgamation of Haughton with Denton.

Chairmen.	Year.	Chairmen.	Year.
William Peacock	1857	W. W. Cooke	1874
John Gould	1858-1859	James Woolfenden ...	1875-1876
Joseph Baxendale ...	1860-1861	William Howe	1877-1878
John Peacock	1862	Thos. Moores	1879
John Bentley	1863-1865	Mark Taylor	1880
Peter Rothwell ...	1866-1869	Joseph Clayton	1881
Mark Taylor	1870-1871	James Woolfenden	1882
John Wood Taylor ...	1872-1873	Edwin Walker	1882-1883

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Past Chairmen of the Denton Urban District Council formerly the Denton and Haughton Local Board.

Chairmen.	Year.	Chairmen.	Year.
Jonathan Moores	1884	Thomas Irwin	1892-1893
Thomas Walker	1885	William Howe	1894-1895
Lees Broadbent... ...	1886-1889	Edwin Oldham	1896
Herbert Trubshaw	1890	Thomas Woolfenden ...	1897
Elijah Hyde	1891		

One of the most handsome ornaments of modern Denton is Christ Church, which was consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester on October 13th, 1853. The church was founded by the family of the Rev. W. P. Greswell, of St. Lawrence's. Mr. Greswell's son, a native of Denton, the Rev. Richard Greswell, was foremost in the work, and practically secured the money required for building purposes. He himself subscribed £500, and the donations from the Greswell family amounted to over £800. Mr. Richard Greswell built the schools first, and they were opened on January 2nd, 1848. At the consecration of the church the sermon was preached by Dr. Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, and there were present the Earl of Wilton, and the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone (at that time Chancellor of the Exchequer). The collection at the service amounted to £427. On the same day the foundation stone of St. Lawrence's new schools was laid by Miss Fletcher (Mrs. Wynne-Corrie), then a girl seven years of age, Mr. Gladstone and the other notabilities attending and speaking at the ceremony.

The clergy of Christ Church have been the Rev. T. N. Farthing, Rev. W. Caine, Rev. T. Schonberg, and the Rev. W. Blackledge, the present Rector.

Of the other religious bodies, the Wesleyans erected their first chapel in 1816, in Ashton Road, but this was sold in 1872, and the present handsome edifice in Hyde Road was built. The Congregationalists built Hope Chapel in 1836, and the Methodist Free Church, in Manchester Road, was built in 1867.

Modern Denton is greatly indebted to the generosity of the Rev. Lawrence Scott and his family, who have provided the wherewithal to carry out the erection of several of its handsome public buildings. The Unitarian Chapel, in Wilton Street, with the adjoining schools, and "The People's Hall," are the result of

the munificence of this family. In 1896 the Scott family presented the town with a "Lads' Club" (which has few equals for efficiency) and a plot of ground. They also contributed a sum of £2,000 towards the cost of extending the premises, and adding the Free Library and Technical School, to supersede the building formerly used for that purpose in the Market Place. The foundation stone of the New Technical School was laid on February 27th, 1897, by Councillor Ed. Oldham, J.P.

In March, 1899, the original Free Library (built as a memorial of the Queen's Jubilee, 1887, and the foundation stone of which was laid April 28th, 1888, by E. J. Sidebotham, Esq.) was converted into a Town Hall. It is a fine building, with excellent municipal offices and a spacious Council Chamber. The building was opened on March 6th, 1899, by Councillor Woolfenden, to whom was presented a gold key, containing the inscription, "Presented to Thos. Woolfenden, Esq., J.P., Chairman of the Denton Urban District Council." After the ceremony, the following Councillors took their seats in the new chamber: T. Woolfenden (Chairman), E. Oldham (Vice-Chairman), Lees Broadbent, W. Howe, J. Moores, H. Trubshaw, P. Richardson, J. Marsden, G. W. Stelfox, J. Linney, R. Cross, L. T. Hibbert, A. Burrows, and Peter Rothwell (the father of the Council).

While dealing with public institutions, mention may be made of the excellent Market Ground in Denton, the first sod of which was turned by John Bentley, Esq., on October 10th, 1863. This ceremony was evidently an interesting event in the village life of the township. The papers of the time state that the worthy magistrate "took off his coat, rolled up his shirt sleeves, and handled the spade in a manner that would have done credit to an experienced navvy. He delved sod after sod until he had filled his barrow, which he wheeled along the plank and tipped up." The occasion was marked by great rejoicing and a monstre bonfire, while three barrels of ale were emptied in honour of the fête.

Among its many other advantages, Denton possesses a cemetery, prettily situated and well laid out, and a police court and offices far superior to any in the neighbouring towns. Its roads have greatly improved, and some idea of the change in the appearance of the place may be gleaned from the accompanying illustration of Crown Point of the mid portion of the century.

Up to the "seventies" Denton was hampered by the existence at Crown Point (still known as The Toll Bar) of three turnpike gates, which made traffic very costly. A waggon going from the direction of Ashton Road, Denton, towards Hyde, had to pay a toll of 16 pence, although the distance travelled might not exceed a mile. A tax of 1s. 8d. was put upon waggons going to Manchester, and similar tolls were put on traffic in all directions. The removal of these bars was a great boon to the neighbourhood.

Denton now figures in the Gorton Parliamentary Division. It sends one representative to the Lancashire County Council, viz., the popular hat master, Lees Broadbent, Esq., J.P.

Reference to the Denton halls and families will be found in the earlier section devoted to that branch of local history. The following neighbouring families were holders of lands in Denton at an early period, viz., the Hultons, who possessed portions of the township in the reign of Elizabeth; the Hulmes, of Hulme Hall; the Barlows, of Barlow Hall; and the family of Reddish, of Reddish.

The derivation of the name of Denton has been attributed by different antiquaries to two sources, one of which has already been referred to in an earlier chapter. That theory traces it to the occupation of the district by the Danes. The other gives it an even earlier source, and sees in it Dean-ton, or Dene-ton, and thence Denton—the Anglo-Saxon for a town or village "in a narrow valley or dale, enclosed on both sides by hills and often exhibiting woods and streams of water convenient for feeding cattle." According to the same theory, Haughton is claimed to derive its name from the Anglo-Saxon "haugh," a hill, and signifies a town or village on an eminence. The township of Haughton is said to have the highest elevation of any township in the parish of Manchester. The name has passed through frequent variations in spelling, and is at different dates set down as Outon, Holuton, Halghton, Hallerton, Houghton, and Haughton. Its earlier history is enveloped in dense obscurity.

Though now to all intents and purposes merged into Denton, the time is not long gone when Haughton was as populous a place as its more important neighbour. In 1645 it had a population of 120 in 24 houses. In 1861 the number of inhabitants was 3,371,

and ten years later it had grown to 4,276. It was 5,327 at the last census in 1891, and there were then 1,115 inhabited houses. The assessable value of Haughton in 1692 was £190 5s. In 1891 the rateable value was £15,483.

For long this township was independent of Denton. Its first step towards local government was taken in 1877, and the first meeting of its newly-elected Local Board was held on Wednesday, June 20th, of that year. The members of this board, in the order of their position at the poll, were:—Wm. Walton, Esq., J.P., Rev. C. J. Bowen, Elijah Hyde, Samuel Axon, J. T. Birdwistle, T. Walker, W. Rayner, J. Hesky Higginbotham, and W. M'Candlish. Mr. Bowen was elected chairman after the office had been offered to and declined by Mr. Walton. The final meeting of the Board took place on Sept. 3rd, 1884, Mr. Hyde in the chair, after which the government of the township was united to that of Denton.

Old newspapers speak of Haughton as being greatly destitute in the matter of religious accommodation, but that remark would scarcely apply to-day. St. Anne's Church, erected by the Sidebothams (who have spared no efforts to promote the general well-being of the neighbourhood), amply meets the requirements of one portion of the township.

The foundation stone of this Church was laid September 1st, 1880, by Edith, daughter of Joseph Sidebotham, Esq., of Bowdon—the founder. The Church is a handsome building, erected at great expense, with accommodation for about 400. Connected with it are excellent day and Sunday schools, which the district also owes to the generosity of the Sidebotham family.

Haughton Dale possesses a pretty little church dedicated to St. Mary, erected in 1874, through the munificence of the late James Walton, Esq., whose family have been great benefactors to the district. Mr. Walton, also built the school in Haughton Dale, and his son, William Walton, Esq., J.P., has continued to contribute in a practical form to the social welfare of the inhabitants.

There are several old buildings in the township, which though not possessed of any special features of architecture, are anything but uninteresting.

Haughton Hall is thus described in an article written many years ago: "It has never been of great pretensions, in fact there is nothing to distinguish it from an ordinary half timbered cottage erection. On one of the lintels is inscribed—T.B., M.B., 1678, and the edifice has recently been done up with whitewash and hatters' wadding. In the reign of Elizabeth a family named Booth were the owners, the lords paramount being the Hydes of Hyde. It afterwards passed to the Holfords, from whom it was purchased by Mr. Bentley, hatmaster, on whose death, in 1847, his daughter succeeded to the estate." Haughton Hall was said to be haunted. By some it is thought to have been the residence of an old local family bearing the name of Haughton. In the reign of Elizabeth one Ralph Haughton received a grant of 22

HAUGHTON HALL.

acres of the waste lands of Denton, and Thomas Haughton, a Royalist, compounded for his estate in 1646 by payment of £2 10s. 0d.

The Hall, after its purchase by the Bentley family, remained a picturesque ornament of the township until the seventies, when the black and white portion of the building was pulled down.

The local curiosities known as the Robin Hood Stones are referred to in the chapter on Old-time Legends. It is stated that the mill which stands near the stones, now a paper mill, but at one time used for grinding flour, was seized by the Luddites in 1812. The Scots Greys were ordered from Manchester to disperse the rioters, many of whom were taken prisoners and transported.

GLASS HOUSE FOLD.

One of the most picturesque of the local "Folds," or "Fowts," as they are termed in the country vernacular, was the well known "Glass House Fold," situated on the Haughton side of the Tame, just opposite old Hyde Hall. This cluster of homesteads is said to have derived its name from the fact that a company of Flemish glass blowers settled there nearly four hundred years ago. Unfortunately the records concerning these people are very few, but the fact of the existence here of glass makers in very early times is a rooted conviction in the minds of the old inhabitants, whose fathers have told the tale generation after generation. Quite recently the following paragraph bearing on this topic, from the pen of the old antiquary mentioned elsewhere in these pages, appeared in the columns of the *North Cheshire Herald*. The earlier portion is obviously a reprint of a paragraph which originally appeared about 50 years ago.

HAUGHTON GLASSHOUSES.—At Haughton and adjoining the river Tame is a hamlet of old houses called Glasshouse Fold, where, about the commencement of the 17th century, there appears to have been a building for the manufacture of glass, but whereabouts it stood, or whether any portion may exist in the buildings now standing, is not apparent. The cottages are principally built of stone and comparatively old, more especially the house occupied by Mr. Ashton, the miller of Hyde Mill, who said that scoriæ or refuse from the glassworks have been frequently dug up in the garden attached to his house. The precise time when the works were established or when discontinued is not known. References to the Glasshouse are to be found in the registers of the Parish Church of Stockport, as far back as 1605.—The above mentioned Mr. Ashton, whose family held Hyde Mill for several generations, was the great-grandfather of Mr. Tom Middleton, of Hyde, whose contributions to the press on local antiquities are well known.—S. HADFIELD.

My great grandfather whom the above excerpt refers to, was dead long before my time, but my grandmother—his daughter Hannah, who married Thomas Middleton, of Kingston, I remember well. As a child it was my delight to wander with her by the

COTTAGES IN GLASS HOUSE FOLD.

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waters of the Tame, through the old Hyde mill and the ancient buildings in Glass House Fold, and then, seated near the "weir" (long since destroyed), in the green level known as "Ashton's meadow," to listen to her stories of the old place and its history. Homely tales they were, of plain, simple country people—yeomen that a bye-gone England long was proud of. She was full of anecdotes concerning the "glass makers," though what the nature of these stories was, or whence she gleaned them, memory fails to say. I was too young at the time to retain the many details, and save the recollection of their telling, all else is lost.

There is no doubt, however, that glass-blowing was carried on at "Glass House Fold" some hundreds of years ago. The following testimony gleamed from the registers of neighbouring parish churches throws some light upon the subject.

FROM THE REGISTER AT STOCKPORT CHURCH.

1605 Julye 31 an infant of one Dionise a glasseman buried.
1615 January Isaack the sonne of one Robert Hartley a glassemaker baptized.
1616 Sep. 8 Katherine daughter of Isaack Dehowe now of Hyde baptized.
1616 Oct. 4 Margerie the daughter of one Robert Beacher a glassemaker baptised.
1618 Maye 17 Abraham the son of Robert Harvey a glassemaker baptized.
1620 Julye 31 William Morress of Knottesford glasse carrier buryed.
1621 Nov. 5 ffrancis sonne of Issack de Hooke of Hyde a Glasse Maker buryed.
1621 Nov. 25 Anna the daughter of George Pylmey Glassemaker baptized.
1623 June 21 Valence Dehooke a Wydowe Woman Mother to one Izaack Dehoowe Glassemaker buryed.
1624 April 9 Marie daughter of William Shegh Glassemaker baptised.
1636 Dec. 7 Thomas the sonne of Thomas Bagley, Clerke of the Glassehouse in Haughton, baptised.
1644 September 15 Margaret daughter of Robert Wilson a Glasseman at ye Glassehouse in Houghton Baptized.

FROM THE MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL REGISTERS.

1672 May 1 Thomas Birche & Hannah Dehowe married.
1696 Jany. 27 James Buterworth & Elizabeth Dehuse marrid.
1700 May 5 Isaack Dehowe & Mary Wood marrid.
1701 March 19 Isaac son of Isaac Dehoe burid.
1711 April 20 Susannah Daughter of Dehow buried.
1713 June 22 Isaac Dehow buried.
1722 Nov. 4 Mary Dehow Widow buried.
1722 Dec. 5 Abraham Dehow buried.

After 1644 there is no further mention of the glass house in the registers. The De Howes seem to have resided in and about Manchester probably from the time when the glass house disappeared. The name De Howe is now extinct unless it is abreviated in the form of Dow of which there are instances at a later period.

AN OLD-TIME BIBLE OF THE HYDES OF DENTON.

One of the most interesting relics of antiquity in Hyde is a fine old folio Family Bible, in most excellent preservation—the property of Mr. Moses Tym, of Godley. Through the kindness of that gentleman and a mutual friend—Mr. T. Kenworthy, of Godley Hill—the writer has been able to make a thorough examination of the volume, and to secure the following facts concerning its history. It was once the family Bible of the Hydes of Denton (*see* Old Halls and Families), from whom it passed by marriage to a family of Sidebothams, thence in like manner to the Williamsons of Bredbury Green, and finally to the Tyms of Godley.

The book is bound in thick oaken boards covered with leather, and belonging to it is an old oak lectern, with an adjusting rack behind. The title-page is embellished with a portrait of Queen Elizabeth, and at the end of the New Testament the date is set forth in the following inscription :

> Imprinted at London in Powle's Churcheyarde by Richarde Lugge, Printer to ye Queene's Maiestie, 1572.

The book is quite complete, having the Apocryphal as well as the Canonical books. In various places it contains entries of births and baptisms of children of its former possessors. One of the earliest records runs as follows, and the writing is in the Old English style of penmanship :

> In anno dom 1582, xvith day of February, Robt. Hyde went to Oxenford, when he was xvij yeres of age and upwarde. The same yere and ye xviij of February wentt at lodging Edwarde Hyde to serve Mr. Herde, when he was xyiij yeres of age and upwarde.

A later owner seems to have used the Bible as a sort of diary, to judge from the entry annexed to the preface.

> Ys xi day of ys month Georg Quarmbe made a traspus in my wode.
> The xxiii of this month William Boothe made a traspus in my wode.

There is, however, no year stated.

Robert Hyde, the grandson of the above Robert who went to Oxford in 1582, had a family of 15 children, whose births are all entered in the family Bible.

1st, Anne Hyde, borne Feby. 5th, 1624 ; baptized 23rd.

2d. Elinor Hyde, borne May 10th, 1626 ; baptized the 17th.

3d. Katherine Hyde, borne May 24th, 1627 ; baptized 30th.

4th. William Hyde, borne Sept. 12th, 1628 ; baptized 20th. Died in the 7th yere of his age about Whit Sonday ; buriedd at Stockpot.

5th. Robert Hyde, borne January 7th, 1629 ; baptized 12th.

6th. Deborah Hyde, borne Sept. 7, 1632 ; baptized 13th.

7th. Grace Hyde, borne Novr. 29, 1634 ; baptized 9 December.

8th. William Hyde, borne the 30 of December, 1636 ; baptized Jan. 5.

9th. Mary Hyde, borne Jan. 11, 1638 ; baptized 22.

10th. Jane Hyde, borne August 27, 1640 ; baptized 2 of 7ber (Sept.)

11th. Samuel Hyde, borne August the 11, 1641 ; baptized 25th.

12th. Alice Hyde, borne Decr. 30th, 1642 ; baptized Jan. 8.

13th. Elizabeth Hyde, borne the 2d of June, 1644, at Manchester, and baptized the 6th. Obijt 19d Novembris, 1645, ad 6tam horam mane.

14th. Martha Hyde, borne the 14 of July, 1645 ; baptized the 20th.

15th. Elizabeth Hyde, borne 2d of 7ber, 1646 ; baptized 8th 8ber (October.)

All these baptized at Denton Chappell except Elizabeth that is decd. (deceased), that was baptized at Manchester some 7 days or thereabouts after Prince Rupert invaded Lancashire.

The Robert Hyde, father of this extensive family, figured prominently in the history of Denton, and among other items concerning him, the text of his rather curious will, containing bequests to the children whose names are given above will be found in the references to the Hydes of Denton. He was a great Puritan, a staunch Parliamentary man, and led his retainers to the defence of Manchester, where he fought with great distinction. He was the most famous of all the Denton branch of the race of Hyde, and died in 1684, having passed the age of four score years.

It must have been either in his lifetime or shortly after his death that the old book passed into the hands of its next possessors. There are baptismal entries relating to the Sidebothams as follows :—

John Sidebotham, borne Meey 6th, 1652.

And in a different hand—

John Sidebotham, dyed ye 27 day of Decembr, in ye yere 1723.
1d. Sarah Sidebottom, born Wedendy, Decembr 12, 1680.
2d. John Sidebotham, borne Mondy, Meey 7, 1683.
3d. Elizabeth Sidebotham, borne Wedendy, August 5th, 1685.
4d. Thomas Sidebotham was borne Novembr, 9 day, 1687.
5d. Ann Sidebotham wees borne 28 day of June, 1693.

Other entries record—

Thomas Sydebotham. His Book, 1732-3. Left him by his father, John Sydebotham.
Thomas Sydebotham, His Book, 1766, Jan. 5th.

There seems, however, to have been some dispute concerning the ownership of the book about this time, as there is a further entry: "John Williamson, His Book," with the date "1754," and the following quaint verse:—

John Williamson, his book,
God give him grace on it to look,
That he may run a happy race,
And heaven be his dwelling place,
And when the bell begins to toul
Sweet Jesus may receive his soul.

Other names inserted in the book are Samuel, Benjamin, and Nathan Williamson, the last of whom has amused himself by scribbling such words as the following:—

Honorificabilitudinity.

Among other quaint entries occur the following:—

The Lord of Life from death himself did rise,
And frequently appear for forty days,
Yn from ys earthly ball he did remove,
To highest regions of ye world above,
Where he preserves for those yt serve him best,
Most blessed mentions (mansions) of eternal rest.

It may be stated that the burial of the first Elizabeth Hyde referred to in the list above, is entered in the Manchester Cathedral Register, 16th of November, 1645; and on the 8th of October, 1648, there is a record of the baptism of her namesake, the second Elizabeth. There is an event recorded also which has not been set down in the Bible. This is the burial of Ellen (Eleanor), daughter to Robert Hyde of Denton, Esq., inserted on the 18th of April, 1650. In the "Genealogie of the Verie ancient familie of Hyde, of Denton," compiled in 1657, she is recorded as

having died on that day. The same compilation records the marriages of Robert Hyde, the eldest surviving son, with Mary, daughter of John Jackson: of Ann Hyde, the eldest daughter, with William Bell, the Rector of Heyton; of Katherine, the third daughter, with William Meek, Clerk; and finally the death of the tenth daughter, Martha, on July 16th, 1652. The particulars of the family of the Hydes of Denton are given in the sections dealing with the "Ancient Halls and Families of the neighbourhood."

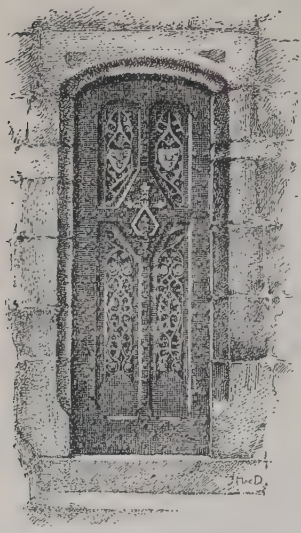
MOTTRAM CHURCH.

The old Church at Mottram is dedicated to St. Michael. It is said that the stone of which the fabric is composed came from the neighbouring township of Tintwistle. The church (with the

From a Photo. by MOTTRAM CHURCH. *S. Searle, Hyde.*

village clustering beneath it) is situated on a hill about 750 feet high, and commands a fine view of the surrounding country. It is a rugged looking old pile, and has not inaptly been defined as the Cathedral of East Cheshire. Mottram Church is first mentioned in 1291, but the present body and chancel of the

edifice were erected, on the site of a former building, in the 14th century. The tower was built some time after that date. Funds for the erection of the tower were left by Sir Ed. Shaa, the Lord Mayor of London, mentioned in *Richard III.* The church contains two private chapels. One on the south side formerly belonged to the Earls of Stamford and Warrington, but passed, with the sale of the Hattersley Manor, to the late J. Chapman, Esq., of Hill End. That on the north was known as the Hollingworth Chapel, and appertained to the old De Hollyngworthe family. After the death of Captain De Hollyngworthe, it was sold by his executors to E. H. Shellard, Esq., from whom it passed to Mr. J. Wood, of Arden, and was purchased from the executors of that gentleman by Canon Miller; who, being anxious to place the organ in it, made over his personal rights to the parishioners for ever. The parishioners possess also, by faculty, the right to an open roadway through the chapel to the parish vestry and to the Communion Table. One of the most ancient monuments in the Church is an effigy of a knight and his lady, perpetuating—according to tradition—the memory of Sir Ralph



ENTRANCE TO CHAPMAN CHAPEL.

THE "STALEY" EFFIGY.

LEW

or Ro of Staley and his lady; the hero and heroine of the popular Longdendale legend anent the Crusades. There is also a handsome marble monument to the memory of Sergeant Bretland, of Thorncliffe Hall, who died in 1703.

Sergeant Bretland was one of the most prominent men of the district in his time; he was Lord of the Manor of Romiley and part of Werneth, and for a time held the Manor of Hyde as mortgagee. His family derived their name from Bretland Edge in Yorkshire. Sergeant Bretland was a celebrated lawyer, and was locally famous as a sportsman. Tradition says he kept a pack of hounds at a farm on the side of Werneth Low. He was a staunch churchman, and at his death left several benefactions to local places of religious worship.

The inscription on the monument above referred to, which is in Latin, runs (when translated) as under:—

Here lies buried
Whatever was mortal
Of Reginald Bretland, A.L.S.,
Descended from an honourable family;
Illustrious in virtue, in learning, in genius;
Who,
Prudent in deliberating, eloquent in speaking, resolute in acting,
Anxious for peace, avoiding litigation, faithful in the highest degree to his client,
Managed the affairs of others committed to his charge as diligently as his own;
Nor ever preferred instituting a lawsuit to removing the cause of controversy.
No day passed by him unemployed,
At last satiated with life,
His soul replete with virtues, well deserving of his country,
He peacefully surrendered to his God, on the third day of April, in the year of our Lord 1703,
In the year of his age 62.
Let us labour incessantly.

On a slight thread depend man's transient joys,
With sudden lapse his firmest hopes decay,
Time, while we speak, on envious pinions flies,
Snatch the fleet hour, nor trust a future day.

Connected with Mottram Church there is an old stone font which long stood outside the edifice, and was used as a rain-water

butt. This font is said to be the only relic of the original building which existed here in the 13th century. The Church also possesses an exceptionally fine marble pulpit, which is an erection of modern days. Within the chancel is an old stone slab, on which was formerly incised the effigy of one of the rectors of Mottram. There are other memorial slabs, though none of very ancient date. After the Reformation the following return was made for "Moterham in Longdendale, by the commissioners appointed for the survey of Chantries, etc., in 1848. . . . . The Stipendary in the seyd Church, Robert Massie, of the age of xliiij. yeres, Incumbent. The yerely value, vij.$^{s.}$ Plate and jewels, none. Goods and ornaments, none. Stock of ready money, vj.$^{l.}$ ix.$^{s.}$ (£6 9s. 0d.) Lead and bells, none."

BELFRY DOOR, MOTTRAM CHURCH.

Mottram Churchyard was formerly noted as the scene of that grim trade of Body Snatching which flourished earlier in the century. The "Brierley" grave, with its strange verse upon the theft of a body buried in it, has been visited by many thousands of the curious.

RECTORS AND VICARS OF MOTTRAM.

There is mention in the Godley deeds (undated) of one Robert, Parson of Mottram, before the year 1300. The list of authentic clergy is as under:—

1300-15	Jordan de Macclesfield	1376	William Garton
1315-17	Thomas de Cressacre	1398	Robert Fitz-Hugh
1317-21	Thomas de Legh	1401	Robert Gilbert
1321-23	John de la Zouch	1411	John Attewell
1323-27	Adam de Moselegh	1413	James Gerveys
1327-28	John de Wodehous	1423	John Yoxale
1328-29	William de Kildesby	1450	John Crecy (alias Smith)
1329-40	Richard Brenks	1471	John Hubart
1340-43	Robert de Rompston	1498	John Pyckton (who died 1517)
1343	Sir Roger de Hasselbech		
1359	William de Clayton	Before 1532	Peter Vannes
1375	Thomas Hoberd		

The above were the old Rectors of Mottram. The advowson in 1546 was added to the revenue of the newly-created Bishopric of Chester, and the subsequent Clergy were Vicars only.

1547 Nicholas Hyde.
1575 John Hyde.
1637 (May) Charles Knott.
1637 (Sept.) Gerard Brown.
1644 —— Walker.
1647 Henry Hibbert.
1655 Francis Shelmerdine.
1662 Henry Moreton.
1676 —— Worthington.
1682 Noah Kinsey.
1695 William Coulborn.
1697 Andrew Gray.
1716 Thomas Robinson.
1747 John Harrison.
1762 Thomas Potts.
1778 Ralph Kinder.
1794 James Turner, M.A.
1826 William Johnson, M.A.
1840 David Seddon.
1853 William Henry Jones, M.A.
1878 John Robert Charlesworth Miller, M.A., present Vicar.

MOTTRAM CHARITIES.

A.D.		Yearly	Sums of Money
	To the Church.		
1693	John Hollingworth, of Tintwistle	£3	
1723	Dr. Gastrel, Bishop of Chester		£200
	To Woodhead Chapel.		
1693	John Hollingworth, of Tintwistle		20
1723	Dr. Gastrel, Bishop of Chester		100
1723	Thomas Hadfield, of Enter Clough		10
1728	Thomas Cotton, of Dodles Pool		30
	Free School.		
1612	Robert Garsett, Alderman of Norwich		100
1632	Sir Richard Wilbraham, Bart.		100
1677	Nic Dearneley, of Manchester		30
1684	Robert Hyde, of Catten Hall	£5	
	To the Poor.		
1619	Dame Elizabeth Booth, of Bath		50
1671	Wm. Hyde, of Mottram		10
1684	Robert Hyde, of Catten Hall	£2	
1692	Henry Hyde, of Mottram		10
1703	Reginald Bretland, of Thorncliffe		50
1704	Mary Hyde, of Mottram		10
1710	John Kenworthy, of Stayley		5
1716	An Augmentation by the Parishioners		33
1720	Mary Kenworthy		5
1725	Eliz., relict of John Kenworthy		5
1728	Moses Hadfield, of Matley		5
1737	Margaret Booth, of Wooley, widow	£2 12 0	
	Benefactions to Parish of Mottram.		
1748	Wm. Tetlow, of Godley, gave for ye use of ye Communion, one Silver Chalice, value		10
1763	Thomas Hegginbotham, of Mottram, gave for ye use of ye Communion, one Silver Chalice, value		30
	To the Poor.		
1743	Thos. Sidebotham, of Stayley		5
1760	John Hadfield, of Croden Brook, Longden, gave		20
1763	John Booth, of Wooley, in Hollingworth, gave.		40
1801	Mary Wagstaffe gave		60
1806	Agnes Wagstaffe gave		50

MOTTRAM TOWNSHIP.

The whole of Mottram parish was anciently called "Tingest-visie," and as such is entered in doomsday as held by the Earl. The de Burghs are next recorded as the earliest tenants, and about 1311 the township was granted by Thomas de Burgh to the Earl of Lancaster. This noble was convicted of treason, beheaded, and his estates confiscated. Lancaster had granted lands to one of his followers, Robert de Holland, and eventually they were re-granted to the Holland family. Maud, heiress of the Hollands, married Sir John Lovell. In the time of Edward III. Sir John Lovell held the lordship of Longdendale from the King (as Earl of Chester) by military service. Sir John was a warrior of great bravery and fame. He served through the French wars, and in 1368 is mentioned as a leader under the Duke of Clarence. Most of the Lovells figure in history, and Francis, Lord Viscount Lovell, was a favourite with Richard III. He was the Lovell of the ancient couplet.

> The cat, the rat, and Lovell the dog,
> Rule all England under a hog.

The cat was Catesby, the rat Ratcliffe, or Radcliffe, of Ordsall Hall, Salford, and the hog represented the crookbacked King. Lovell was chief butler and chamberlain of the household. He took refuge in Lancashire after the battle of Bosworth Field (where he fought for the King), and finally fled to Flanders. He came to England with the Earl of Lincoln as a supporter of the pretender, Lambert Simnel, and was at the battle of Stoke. Some say he was slain there, others that he hid himself in an underground dungeon where he was starved to death. It was thought that a skeleton which was found by workmen long over a century ago in an underground chamber at Minister Lovell, near Oxford, was the frame of the once powerful noble. After the battle of Stoke, Lovell's lands were confiscated, and in 1409 were granted to Sir Wm. Stanley, who had turned the day at Bosworth Field. Stanley supported Perkin Warbeck, and also suffered attainder. The lands passed, by the gift of Queen Mary, to the Wilbrahams, from whom the rights devolve (through their representatives the Earls of Dysart), to the Tollemache family who now hold the lordship.

LEWIS.

MOTTRAM GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This school was founded in 1612 by Robert Garsett, Alderman of Norwich, possibly a native of the Mottram parish. He left £100 for the purpose, and this sum was augmented by £100 from Sir Richard Wilbraham, of Woodhey, lord of the manor, and by other gifts from the chief families of the parish. The school-house was erected in 1623, and John Etchells was first master. In 1632 the school money was invested in the purchase of an estate, at Haughton in Bunbury parish, which still belongs to the schools, together with a house in Manchester said to have been purchased by the proceeds of a sale of timber on the above estate. For a time the school declined, and the building became ruinous; the Charity Commissioners, in 1839, speaking strongly on its mismanagement. In 1857 it was re-established and the school-house re-built. A further revised scheme was approved by the Privy Council in July, 1897. This abolished (inter-alia) the self appointment of trustees, and made provision for a future governing body of eight representative and three co-optative governors, but the then trustees were to hold office for life. They are Canon J. R. C. Miller, E. Chapman, Esq., J.P., Col. W. Sidebottom, M.P., J. A. Sidebottom, Esq., J.P. The first eight new representative governors elected were—two by the Mottram Urban District Council, viz.: Mr. John Wagstaffe and Mr. G. Bostock; two by the Hollingworth Urban District Council, viz.: Mr. W. Flint and Rev. T. Hughes; two by Cheshire County Council, viz.: Dr. H. Wylde and J. F. Cheetham, Esq., J.P.; one by the Vicar and Wardens of Mottram, viz.: Mr. H. A. Costabodie; one by the Council of Owens College, viz.: Dr. Dixon; of the above Mr. J. Wagstaffe resigned in April, 1898, and his place was filled by Mr. G. Lowe. Recent improvements and extensions have been carried on, and the new school building was formally opened by J. W. Sidebotham, Esq., M.P., on November 13th, 1897.

The grammar school masters (as far as the writer has been able to ascertain) have been as under :—

John Etchells, appointed at foundation.
1670 Rev. Henry Morton (vicar).
1676 Benjamin Gee.
. . . . . .
Ralph Wardleworth, died in 1794.
Rev. J. Turner, (vicar).
1826 Rev. W. Johnson (vicar).

After the new scheme of 1857, which, however, did not come into operation for some few years.

George Green.
Henry Biggs (now Hon. H. Biggs, member of Legislature Council for Western Australia),
Rev. Mr. Bell.
Rev. Mr. Knight.
Mr. Williams.
} These held the position only temporarily for short periods.
1879 W. F. Norman.
March 1st, 1897 Edward J. Salmon, B.A.

MOTTRAM CROSS.

An interesting relic of old-time Mottram is the "Cross," which stands on Warhill, in front of the church gates. Two years ago it was restored by a few private subscribers, and it now bears the following inscription :—

"Restored in commemoration of the 60th year of the reign of Queen Victoria. 1897."

The original cross is said by many local authorities to have been erected about 1760, to commemorate the coronation of George III. There seems, however to be some slight difference of opinion among these worthies, as it is also asserted that the coronation of the above monarch was celebrated by the erection of the "Crown Pole" at Mottram, when there were great festivities and the wholesale roasting of an ox ; whilst at the same time the cross, already an old institution, was restored or renewed. However this may be, it is quite likely that a cross stood on the Warhill site in very early times, and a well-known Mottram writer to the *North Cheshire Herald* supposes the existence of a Mottram Cross from the date of the erection of the parish church. The present cross, which is an interesting looking structure in the old world village style, contains the material which stood in the original erection, and on the north face of the dial square, with which it is surmounted, is set this inscription :—

Watch and pray,
Time hastes away.
When time is done
Eternity comes on.

On the sun dial there is the Latin motto—"Hora pars vitae." The tradition concerning Warhill is referred to in the general history of the district.

LAWRENCE EARNSHAW.

No notice of Mottram would be complete without mention of Lawrence Earnshaw, one of the brightest of Longdendale's sons. His career is largely dealt with in Chadwick's "Mottram and its Worthies," and a handsome monument is erected to his memory in the Cemetery which adjoins the old churchyard. Earnshaw was born early in the 18th century, and when very young was apprenticed to a woollen weaver. Afterwards he worked as a tailor, but subsequently was engaged as a clockmaker at Stockport. Chadwick says of him :—

> He became an engraver, painter, guilder ; he could stain glass and foil mirrors ; was a white-smith, blacksmith, copper-smith, gun-smith ; bell-founder and coffin-maker ; made and erected sun-dials ; mended violins, repaired, tuned, played upon, and taught others to perform on harpsicord and virginals. He could have taken wool from the sheep's back, manufactured it into cloth, made that cloth into clothes for wearing, and constructed every instrument for the clipping, carding, spinning, reeling, weaving, fulling, dressing, and making up wool for wear with his own hands. By the force of his natural abilities, and the little instruction he could obtain, he made himself one of the most eminent mechanics the country has produced.

Earnshaw invented a machine for spinning and reeling cotton, but destroyed it through dread of its injuring the working classes by lessening manual labour. Crompton, Arkwright and others worked out ideas similar to Earnshaw's, which he himself refused to carry through on the above mistaken though unselfish motives. Earnshaw's genius perhaps manifested itself most in mechanical application. As a clock maker he was wonderfully clever, inventing a curious "astronomical and geographical clock, containing both a celestial and a terrestial globe, to which the different movements were given, representing the annual and diurnal motions of the earth, the position of the moon and stars, the sun's place in the ecliptic, etc."

The inscription on the monument erected to commemorate this Mottram worthy records : "Lawrence Earnshaw, Mottram, died May 12th, 1767, and was interred in the adjoining churchyard. A century after his decease the admirers of his genius erected this monument, A.D. 1868. A self-taught genius, of humble birth, his talents as an inventor anticipated by many years the discoveries of other eminent men. By his skill in geometry and his acquirements as a mechanician, he designed and

constructed an astronomical clock for registering the revolution of the heavenly bodies and the flow of the tides."

The monument was raised by public subscription, and was unveiled on April 10th, 1868.

A CURIOUS PAMPHLET.

Mottram figured prominently in the Luddite insurrections at the commencement of the century, details of which are given in an earlier chapter. The military were quartered here, and for a time the town was the headquarters of the detachment told off to supervise the neighbourhood. It was a Longdendale gentleman who was the object of the so-called and once much talked of "Newton conspiracy," in connection with the Luddite risings. Chiefly through the Messrs. Lees, of Newton, reports had been circulated stating that Mr. George Hadfield, of the Old Hall, Mottram, had encouraged a lawless mob to "commit depredations on the property, and to destroy the machinery of his neighbours." In a quaint, ingenious pamphlet, dated 1812, and entitled, "The Family Compact," or, the "Conspiracy of Newton," Mr. Hadfield rebuts the charge, and levels a counter attack on his traducers. The pamphlet is interesting, as throwing light upon the condition of the people at that time, and a brief quotation will not be out of place. "I believe," says the writer, "it was on the 21st of April last that an alarm was spread through the country that a mob was approaching, and, apprehending they might pay me a visit, it required some time to put my house in a state of defence. In the meantime they had passed through Mottram, and immediately afterwards I went to see in what direction; some said the great body of them were gone quite away, but they were soon undeceived, for they returned with accumulated numbers, and accounts exaggerated by terror represented them as having attempted to fire Messrs. Sidebottom's mill and machinery, and that one of the Messrs. Sidebottom had much difficulty in escaping with his life, and that at Mrs. Marsland's, of Broad-bottom Bridge, they had brought out their blower for them to break, and had saved the mill and other machinery. These dreadful reports made me hesitate. I had with me no armed force, nor could be procured any civil authority whatever. But seeing them move in a body towards Wednesough Green to attack Wood's factory, compassion for an honest and good neighbour induced me to approach them

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and try to save his premises and machinery. For that purpose I met them on the Green at a time when they were making a rapid charge upon the building and called for them to stop and not dare to break in the factory. I consulted in the hurry with Mr. W. Wood, the proprietor, what was best to be done, and there appeared no other way to save the property than by bringing out the blower as others had done. This, however, could not be accomplished, and they got into the factory and broke the machine. Every person forming that body was a perfect stranger. . . . . Returning home full of anxiety and regret that a country which had hitherto stood high for its loyalty and good order, should now become a scene of disorder and violence, I wrote immediately to the Secretary of State."

The pamphlet concludes by drawing a sharp contrast between the public conduct of Mr. Hadfield's traducers and himself—"When some time ago, the common enemy had drawn his hostile bands to the opposite shores and threatened invasion—when the alarm was sounded through the nation and Government called upon every loyal man to defend his dearest interests—when all ranks of people flocked to the sacred standard of their country, or contributed pecuniary aid, and all united in displaying a degree of patriotism never exceeded by ancient Greece or Rome—where were the Messrs. Lees. . . . . They felt the electric shock it is true, but it had the effect of strong repulsion. They, like a well-known creeping animal, at the slightest touch, shrunk, drew in their horns and retired to their shell while the storm was past, and until they could emerge with safety. . . . . While they refused to contribute the smallest sum, I sacrificed at that time from a conviction that it was my duty, upwards of a *thousand pounds*, and have at all times never been afraid of my purse or my person, when either one or the other would be serviceable to my country."

It is from such side lights and personal incidents that one gleans some idea of the life of our fathers in times famous for the struggles which industry had to bear.

Before leaving the subject of old-time Mottram, it is as well to give the testimony of Aiken concerning the character of the town a century ago. "Formerly," says he, "there was not sufficient business in Mottram for one butcher, but few sheep were

killed and seldom more than one cow in a week, except at the wakes, which festival is to this time kept up, with all the ceremony of dressing up rush-carts and strewing the church and pews with rushes. At present the town affords a tolerable livelihood for five butchers, and not a week passes without the slaughter of sheep and oxen, which are chiefly brought from Huddersfield, Barnsley, and Sheffield. Tea has almost expelled the good old dish of the country, *thick porridge*, though this is still continued in some families who find it makes a much more substantial breakfast, and as they say, 'wears better.' Oat cakes leavened and baked thick are the principal bread of the place, though wheaten loaves are also common."

Ralph Bernard Robinson, in his "History of Mottram," mentions an interesting relic of antiquity, in the shape of a pane of glass originally forming part of a window in the "Carr House Farm," at the Hague. "This old house," says the writer, "has a historical celebrity. A party of Royalists, on their march to Yorkshire before the battle of Marston Moor, stayed here one night. The name of the captain, Joseph Oldfield, of Spalding, that of King Charles, and the date (1644) long remained inscribed, in Latin, with a diamond ring, on a window pane of this old dwelling."

The actual pane of glass referred to by Robinson became the property of the late A. K. Sidebotham, Esq., and is among his effects, now offered for sale.

The neighbourhood of Mottram has many recollections of a later military expedition, that of the Young Pretender in 1745. An old lady who recently died, had been told by her grandmother that the latter remembered the Highlanders passing through the district, and staying near Hollingworth Hall, when on their flight from Derby. The old lady described them as fine men, very civil, and the people of the district were greatly surprised to see the men dressed in kilts, with their knees bare. Some of the soldiers rested by the road-side, and took the children of the neighbourhood on their knees. One of the men left a tinder-box behind him, and this was long preserved at Hollingworth Hall as a memento of the visit. The Scottish soldiers are said to have taken away nothing except food for themselves and their horses.

BROADBOTTOM.

Broadbottom is mentioned in the time of Edward III., and a local family of that name existed in early days. Henry, son of William de Broadbottom, granted his lands in Mottram to William, son of John de Hyde, and Robert, son of Robert de Hagh. These owners conveyed them to Ralph de Wolegh, a member of an ancient family formerly possessing considerable property in Longdendale. The pedigree of the Wolegh family dates back to the time of Edward II. with one Rudolph de Wolegh, and his descendants were seated in the neighbourhood until 1460, when the direct male heir, William Woley, removed from Mottram to Riber, near Matlock, in the county of Derby. A branch of the family, however, lived in the district during the present century, and the name is still retained by spots and places near.

Broadbottom Hall, the property of the Bostocks, an old 17th century mansion, is said to occupy the site of the ancient hall of the original De Wolegh.

Broadbottom Bridge was originally built in 1683, and figures in old prints of the last century. Near it is Harewood Lodge, the residence of Colonel Sidebottom, M.P. for the High Peak Division of Derbyshire. Colonel Sidebottom is a member of a family distinguished as manufacturers in Longdendale. The Sidebottoms have for a long period been large employers of labour, and among the most extensive cotton spinners in the country. The later generation have occupied distinguished positions as public men. Tom Harrop Sidebottom, Esq., M.P., has represented Stalybridge in several Parliaments. The late James Sidebottom, Esq., was Mayor of Glossop; and Col. Sidebottom for many years has been Member for High Peak. Col. Sidebottom has rendered great service to the Volunteer cause. He has also been a most devoted Sunday School worker, setting an example in this respect that might well be followed by others in high position. Miss Lucy Sidebottom has also been long engaged in the work of Sunday Schools.

HATTERSLEY.

The manor of Hattersley was originally held by the Stokeports under the Earldom. There is a record of a mesne manor

held here by a family of the local name represented by Ralph de Hatterslegh in the 13th century.

An interesting tenure is mentioned in Edward the Third's time. Isabel, daughter of Sir Richard de Stokeport, held lands in Hatterslegh in fee simple from the Earl of Chester, by "ploughing with all her ploughs in the time of Lent from Hatterslegh at the earl's manor house of Tyngetwisell, and by suit to the court there once a fortnight." (Omerod).

The Stokeport interest afterwards passed to the Warrens of Poynton, and some time after this transfer the principal estates seem to have become vested in the Carringtons. Jane Carrington, sole heiress of John Carrington, married Geo. Booth, heir-apparent of Sir William Booth, of Dunham, and so carried the estates into the Booth family.

Later still the lands passed, through the Booths, of Dunham Massey, to the Earls of Stamford and Warrington. In 1858 Lord Stamford disposed of the manor, and the Stayley Chapel in Mottram Church, to the late John Chapman, Esq., of Hill End, formerly M.P. for Grimsby. This gentleman's son, Mr. Edward Chapman, J.P., is the present Lord of the Manor. The philantrophic spirit of Mr. and Mrs. Chapman, and their many efforts to promote the public welfare are well known. Mr. Chapman, in addition to numerous other public offices, is Chairman of the District Council at Mottram, a county magistrate for Chester and Lancaster, and he also holds high rank for his scholastic attainments. Educated at Merton College, Oxford, he graduated with honours, taking a 1st class in the Honour School of Natural Science, was B.A. in 1864, and M.A. in 1866. He was elected a Fellow of Magdalen College, where he held a tutorship of Natural Science for 25 years. During his residence in Oxford he actively devoted himself to the furtherance of education, holding several important posts on boards in the University, such as "The Local Examinations," "University Extension," "University Museum," etc., and was for many years the secretary and curator of the Botanic Gardens. He was also public examiner in the School of Natural Science. Finding his work in this district required his whole attention he finally gave up his residence at Oxford in 1894. Mr. Chapman is Vice-chairman of the Great Central Railway Company.

Butterworth, in his history, suggests that the name of the township of Hattersley was derived from *Addersley*, or the *Field of Adders*, and further ventures the opinion that Ederas, Adderow, Adderstream, etc., came from the same radix. The same writer mentions an ancient Saxon corn mill which once formed an important feature of the township. Hattersley still retains a good specimen of the village Pinfold.

MATLEY.

The famous de Burghs held Matley in early times, but in the 13th century the township gave its name to a local family. William, son and heir of Richard de Mattelegh granted to Philip Chetewyn, Knight, all his lands in the vill of Mattelegh. The records of the Matteleghs are rather sparse, but the family would appear to have been one of considerable local fame, and continued in the neighbourhood for many generations. It existed here till the 16th century. Matley was apparently once covered with large sheets of water called "meres." It is recorded in an old document that Richard de Massey enclosed, and brought in, the meres of Matley and Godley.

THE TOWNSHIP OF BREDBURY.

This ancient township has the following mention in the Norman survey :—

"The same Richard Vernon holds Bredbury and Uluric of him, who held it as a freeman. There is one hide rateable to the gelt. The land is three carucates ; one radman and six villeins and two bordars ; these have one carucate. There is a wood one league long and half a league broad, and there are three hays and a hawk's aery. In King Edward's time it was worth ten shillings and it is worth the same now."

The Uluric referred to was one of a line of Saxons who had enjoyed the old-time wealth of Bredburie as freemen in the days of the Saxon dynasty. When the Normans laid violent hands on the possessions of the Saxon chiefs Uluric was one of the few in this locality who were allowed to retain possession of their lands. He held the estate as the vassal of the Norman nobles. From the Vernons the lordship passed, at an early date, to the Masseys or Mascis, of Dunham, and was held from them

by the Stockport lords. In Edward the Third's time the manor was held from the Lord of Dunham, "by doing service to the King in time of war with one uncaparisoned horse."

An interesting charter (of which the following is a translation), granted by the third Hamon de Masci, lord of Dunham, who died about the end of the reign of King John, confirms the ownership of lands in Bredbury, Brinnington, etc., to the Fitz-Waltheofs, of Stockport.

"Hamo de Masci to all his men, whether French or English, clerical or lay, as well in the future as now living, sendeth greetings. Be it known to you all that I have re-granted to Robert, the son of Waltheof, all the land which Waltheof, his father, held of me and my ancestors, for his inheritance, that is to say, Hecheles (Etchells), with all that appertains to it, to him and his heirs, holding of me and my heirs freely, quietly, and peaceably, by the service of half a Knight's fee. And I, Hamo, reserve to my own use, stag, hind, and boar in Hulreswood, and the other liberties shall remain to Robert, the son of Waltheof, and his heirs. And I, Hamo, re-grant to Robert, the son of Waltheof, Bredburie and Brinnintone with their appurtenances, as his inheritance, to him and his heirs, to hold of me and my heirs, by the service of carrying my bed, my arms, or my clothing, whenever the Earl (of Chester) in his own proper person shall go into Wales. And I, Hamo, will fully furnish Robert, the son of Waltheof, and his heirs, with a sumpter beast and a man and a sack, and we will find estovers (sufficient food) for the man and the sumpter beast aforesaid, whilst he is with us in the field, until he shall be returned to the said Robert or his heirs. And Robert, the son of Waltheof, shall pay aid to ransom my body from captivity and detention, and to make my eldest son a knight, and to give my eldest daughter a marriage portion, in consideration of which Robert has given me a gold ring."

These conditions were usual under the feudal system, when military ideas so largely prevailed throughout the entire Kingdom.

In the 14th century Bredbury was divided into two portions, and the largest, as recorded elsewhere, passed to a connection or

branch of the Stokeport family bearing the local name of Bredbury, or Bredburie. From this family, by marriage, the Ardens of Arden Hall derived rights of proprietorship—rights they continued to enjoy until the present century, when the Alvanley and Arden estates were disposed of to various purchasers. The smaller portion of the township came into the possession of the Davenports of Henbury, but was subsequently merged into the larger, being purchased in 1662 by Sir John Arden, who thus acquired the whole manor. Goyt Hall, the seat of the Davenport family, is frequently mentioned in the Stockport registers.

The township also boasts Harrytown Hall, a building dating from the middle of the last century, and for years the residence of J. Bruckshaw, Esq. Up to recently Harrytown was the Cheshire residence of William Walton, Esq., J.P., and is now occupied by H. Le Neve Foster, Esq.

A homestead in the township known as Yew Tree Farm is mentioned in the registers as early as the year 1590.

Woodley, which is so closely connected with Bredbury, formerly belonged to the Arderns, but was carried by the marriage of an heiress of this house to the family of Wevers of Wever. In 1399 Sir Edward Wever granted to the Bothes the manor of Wodelegh and certain lands in Bredburie and Romiley. By a subsequent matrimonial union the rights were transferred from the Wevers to the Stanleys of Alderley, who afterwards sold them to John Arden, in the reign of James I.

ROMILEY.

Romiley figures in the Doomsday survey under the name of Rumelie. It became the property of the ancient Barons of Dunham, under whom the Stokeports held it for a time. Eventually the manor came into the possession of the Bredburies, and through them it fell into the hands of the Arden family.

The Davenports of Henbury figure as proprietors of at least some portion of the township in old days, and by various purchases the Bretlands, of Thorncliffe Hall, Mottram, and the Tattons, of Wythenshaw, held rights of ownership.

Before the year 1200 Romiley gave its name to a family settled there, as one Robert de Rumley is mentioned at the time.

Later there is a record of William, son of "Godwyn de Romelegh," who sold certain lands in "Romelegh" to the Stokeports. The Hydes of Denton held lands in Romiley from an early period. Sir Robert de Hyde of Hyde exchanged lands in Bredbury with Sir Robert de Stokeport for lands in "Romelegh, which the latter had purchased from Godwyn de Romelegh." This was about the middle of the 13th century, and a little later John de Hyde of Hyde gave these lands in Romiley to his younger brother, Alexander, the founder of the Hydes of Denton. At one time also the Leghs of Adlington held lands here.

Chadkirk, which adjoins Romiley (and the ministerial functions of whose ancient chapel are now discharged by the modern St. Chad's Church of Romiley), is also mentioned in the Doomsday Book, though there is even earlier reference to the spot. It is supposed to have been the site of some sort of religious foundation in early Saxon times, and is popularly believed to have had connection with Ceadda, or Chad, Bishop of Mercia, who lived in the 7th century. This divine was a man of beautiful character, and after his death became one of the most popular of saints, and the patron of medicinal springs. "The Holy Well," or, as it is commonly termed, "St. Chad's Well," with its abundance of moss and fern, is still one of the prettiest sights in the glorious vale of Chadkirk. For ages this well has been the home of wild legend, and the reputed source of fabulous cures equal almost to those of miracle days.

The Doomsday reference to Chadkirk runs as under :—

Gamel holds of the Earl, Cedde. His father held it as a free man. There are two hides rateable to the gelt. The land is six carucates. One is in the demesne and two neatherds and four villeins and three bordars, with two carucates. There is a wood one league long and half a league broad ; a hay and a hawk's aery, and one acre of meadow. It was and is worth ten shillings. The whole manor is two leagues long and one broad.

One interesting feature about this Doomsday manor of Cedde, is that, along with Romiley, it was retained by the Earl of Chester himself, and not allotted to one of his barons, as was the case with others of the neighbouring manors. It was most probably incorporated at a very early period with the manor of Bredbury or Romiley.

There are records of a "Chaplain of Chaddekyrke" as early as 1347, though there is a wide belief prevalent that long before that period some place for the holding of religious worship had existed in the valley. The Davenports of Henbury claimed that "*their ancestors*" founded the Chantry at Chadkirk, but it is more likely that those ancestors found some older foundation already established when the lands came into their possession. Apparently what they really did was to endow this religious house, and thus establish a family connection with the ancient Chantry of

CHADKIRK CHAPEL.

Chadkirk. When Henry VIII. prepared for his onslaught on the monasteries of England, a Commission was appointed to ascertain the amount of the Annual Revenues to which the Crown was entitled from the religious foundations. Chadkirk appears in this return, and the following translation of the report (given by Earwaker) will be of interest:—

CHANTRY OF CHADKYRKE.

Ralph Grene, chaplain, worth in lands and tenements belonging to the said Chantry yearly, £4 1s. 4d.

Tenths of the same payable thence, 8s. 1½d. (the amount claimed by the Crown).

A further survey of Chantries, made in 1548, gives the following account:—

THE CHANTRY OF CHADKYRKE.

Ralph Grene, of the age of lx. yeres, Incumbent there. The yerely value is vj.$^{li.}$ xiij.$^{s.}$ iiij.$^{d.}$ Plate and jewels, none. Goods and ornaments to the value of xvj.$^{s.}$ viij.$^{d.}$ Lead and bells valued at vj.$^{s.}$ viij.$^{d.}$

The revenues passed into the hands of the Crown, but it would appear that the Davenports ultimately regained possession. Elizabeth Davenport is quoted in 1559 as chargeable for certain land in Romily, and the Harleian MSS. gives the following:—

The said Chauntrie is of the Dolacon, of the heiress of one mastere Davenporte, of Henburie, and in the same Chappel they have used to christen, burie, and wedde, w^{ch} Chappel and landes the said Davenporte claymeth to be p'cell of his inheritance, and hath sued out his livery for the same amongst other his lands and possessions, as upon the right of his livery shewed before us did appear.

For some time the Chapel appears to have been closed and allowed to fall into decay, and for a time, even, it was used as a stable. Its poverty, however, was mitigated in 1703, when Reginald Bretland, the lord of the manor, died and left the following bequest in his will:—

To an orthodox preaching minister at Chadkirk Chappell, and to all successive ministers preaching there, £5 per annum, to be issuing and payable out of the rents of my manors of Werneth and Romiley, desiring the parson of Stopford for the time being to add so much thereto.

As mentioned in the first section of the present volume, the Chapel was rebuilt about 1741. It still stands a lovely ornament of one of the pleasantest of Cheshire vales. Chadkirk and its surroundings, together with the adjoining district, are fully dealt with in an admirable work by James Cocks, Esq., entitled, "Memorials of Hatherlow."

MARPLE.

The ancient name of this township was Merpul, probably derived from the wide pool or mere formed by the waters of the Goyt river in the deep valley. In the time of the Doomsday survey, Marple most likely figured as a waste district in the forest of the Earl. By an undated deed, Randal, Earl of Chester, granted to Robert, son of Robert de Stokeport, "Merpel et Wibreslegam." In a later charter these lands were granted by the same Robert to his sister Margaret and her husband, William de Vernon, to be held by service of finding one forester. This Vernon was the

ancestor of the Vernon family, of Haddon. In the time of Edward I. a return shows that Ric de Vernon, holds Merpul and Wibbresl by forestry, and "should come at the summons of our lord the king and follow his standard with the same arms with which he wards his bailiwick, viz., with bows and arrows, and whilst he was with the army he should not be discharged from the wardship of the forest." (Omerod.)

The estates remained in the hands of the Vernons till they came in possession of Sir Henry Vernon, who practically built the present lordly pile of Haddon Hall. His grandson, Sir George Vernon, better known as "The King of the Peak," dying without male issue, left two daughters, Margaret, who became the wife of Sir Thomas Stanley, of Winwick, ancestor of the Earls of Derby, and Dorothy Vernon, the darling of English romance, who married Sir John Manners, ancestor of the Dukes of Rutland. Marple and Wibersley fell to the share of Margaret, and were in the time of the next heir sold in parcels, the manor coming into the possession of Thomas Hibbert, of Marple, formerly a tenant under the Stanleys. By deeds, dated 1606, it appears that Marple and Wibersley Halls were conveyed to the Bradshawes, in whose descendants' hands they still remain. Omerod states that Marple appears to have given name to a family of which one solitary mention occurs in the time of Richard II., in the person of an archer of the crown, one John de Merpul, who was "grantee of the King, of the livery of the crown, with sixpence a day during pleasure."

Modern Marple shows signs of becoming a populous residential district, and the beauty of its scenery is a great attraction for holiday seekers. Up to a recent date one of its interesting pictures was a fine old mill, situated in a valley as romantic probably as any in Cheshire. This mill which was built by Samuel Oldknow about the close of the 18th century, was unfortunately destroyed by fire a few years ago. The great figure in the manufacturing history of Marple is Oldknow, of whom Aiken rather insufficiently remarks, "On the Derbyshire side, about a mile from the bridge (Marple Bridge), Mr. Oldknow has erected the largest cotton mill in this part of the country, on the Goyt, turned by a cut from that river; which of course employs the principal part of the young people in this neighbourhood. Mr. Oldknow has also built at his own expense

a very fine bridge over the river Goyt, with free-stone got in the quarry at Charlesworth Neck, and faced and finished with a finer sort from the quarries near Buxton."

Samuel Oldknow was practically the founder of modern Marple, to which village he migrated from Stockport about the year 1790. He formerly carried on a prosperous business as a muslin manufacturer at Stockport, but in the year above mentioned he erected "Oldknow's Mill" at Marple. Here he became exceedingly wealthy, developed into a large landowner, and was prominent in the furtherance of agricultural pursuits and the general public improvement. He was a prominent figure in the promotion of the "Peak Forest Canal," he built a local church, erected a corn mill, and opened out many new industries in the neighbourhood. He was Lieutenant-Colonel in the High Peak Volunteers, and was High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1824. He died in 1828 at the age of 72, and at his funeral it is computed there were as many as 3,000 persons present.

Oldknow and other Marple worthies have been most ably dealt with by the pen of Joel Wainwright, Esq., J.P., of Finchwood, whose historical writings on local subjects are well and widely known.

There are several interesting mansions in the neighbourhood of Marple, two of which are dealt with earlier in this volume. A third, Brabyns' Hall, in Marple Bridge, was built about the middle of the last century by Henry Brabin, M.D., who was born May 16, 1710, and married in 1741 Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of John Lowe, of Marple Bridge. Afterwards the property was the residence of the Wrights, of Marple, from whom it passed to Miss Hudson, its present proprietor. It is to the Hudson family the district owes the pretty little church of Lower Marple.

THE TOWNSHIP OF DUKINFIELD.

This vill at an early period was parcell of the fee of Dunham Massey. There is an account of "Bramall" at the time of Richard I., which mentions Dukinfield as conferred on Matthew de Bromeale by the third Hamon de Massey. According to Omerod, prior to this transfer, mesne lords had assumed the local name, and these held Dukinfield under Bramall, from the lords of

JOHN ASTLEY *(from a Painting by himself).*

which place they were most probably descended. The Dukinfield estates continued in the hands of the Dukinfields, as shown in the account of Dukinfield Hall and family, to the death of Sir William Dukinfield in 1738. This Sir William, who assumed the name of Daniel, on succeeding to the property of the Daniels of Over Tabley, settled his estates on his widow, who afterwards married John Astley (a widower), to whom she granted all the estates of Dukinfield absolutely.

There are many stories told of the origin of the connection of the Astleys with Dukinfield. John Astley was a distinguished portrait painter, a friend of Reynolds, and one of the best known men of his day. He is said to have attended an assembly at Knutsford where he so captivated Lady Dukinfield Daniel that she requested him to paint her portrait, and on the completion of the task intimated to him "that if he was pleased with the portrait he might have the original." Lady Dukinfield Daniel was a most handsome woman, and, with such encouragement to begin with, Astley was not long in winning the prize.

John Astley was descended from an ancient family, said to be connected with Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester. The earliest record of the family refers to one Philip de Estleja, or Estley, in the time of Henry II., A.D. 1136. This Philip de Estleja settled at Estley in Warwickshire, and from him descended Sir Thomas Astley, of Patishall, or Patshal, near Wem, Salop, who married the daughter of Sir Gilbert Talbot of Aston (1520.) Sir Thomas left his estates to his youngest son John, who died in 1597, and was succeeded by his son Richard, who died in 1645. Edward Astley, son of Richard, was second of the "feoffees" of Wem School, and was third benefactor to the school, having given to it £6 10s. Thomas Astley, son of Edward, sold the estates in 1684, and died the following year. His grandson was Dr. Astley of Wem, father of John Astley, the painter (who succeeded to the Dukinfield estates after the death of his wife, Lady Dukinfield Daniel.)

John Astley was a painter of great merit, and earned large sums by his art. After his succession to the Dukinfield property, he bought a house in Pall Mall, of which Mr. Pennant, in his account of London, says: "In Pall Mall the Duke of Schomberg had his house. It was in my time possessed by Astley the painter,

who divided it into three, and most whimsically fitted up the centre for his own use." John Astley built Dukinfield Lodge, which henceforth became the seat of the lords of the manor of Dukinfield. The Lodge is thus described by Aiken in 1795: "Dukinfield Lodge, the new seat built by the late Mr. Astley, is delightfully situated on an eminence above the Tame. It contains a fine octagon room with painted windows; the others are small but elegant, and are decorated with paintings chiefly by the hand of Mr. Astley. . . . . It has a fine hothouse, and a large open bath with a dressing room. In the front of the house is a terrace, affording a very pleasing view; and the precipitous rock descending from it has been clothed with evergreens and other trees and shrubs. A fine wood occupies the space between it and the river, through which are cut several retired walks. The seat is now occupied by William Robert Hay, Esq., who married Mr. Astley's widow. Its beauty has given rise to a descriptive piece written by a young poet, Mr. William Hampson, and published at the request of Mr. Hay and his lady." . . . . .

After the death of Lady Dukinfield Daniel, which occurred in 1762, John Astley married as a third wife, Mary, daughter of William Wagstaffe, of Manchester. By this lady (who was a famous beauty of the period) he had several children, the eldest son, Francis Dukinfield Astley, succeeding him.

John Astley died at Dukinfield Lodge on November 14th, 1787. After his death, his widow married the Hon. and Rev. Robert Hay, vicar of Rochdale. She died in 1832.

Francis Dukinfield Astley, born in 1781, the successor of the painter by his third marriage, was a poet, well versed in the classics of Greece and Rome. He was also a great lover of field sports, and for the purposes of festive enjoyments he built what was known as "The Hunters' Tower." This building was opened on February 27th, 1807, the day being very stormy. Mr. Astley thus commemorated the occasion in song.

AIR—"YE GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND."

Hark! how with northern fury the gales around us blow,
And bear upon their angry wings the chase-forbidding snow;
What though, from storms opposing, our hunting we forego,
Let our wine, in bumpers shine,
Though the stormy winds do blow.

MRS. ASTLEY AND CHILD.

(Third wife of John Astley, with her 2nd son John William Astley.)

Whilst Bacchus holds his empire here, Dianna sure will join,
And when we tell our gallant runs, we'll pledge her sports in wine,
For from her sports proceeding health gives the ruddy glow,
Driving care and despair
Though the stormy winds do blow.

Should Venus hither lead her court, and leave the cyprian bower,
And love invite the blooming maid to grace this favoured tower,
Then, as from lips of beauty consenting accents flow,
The hail and rain may rage in vain,
And the stormy whirlwinds blow.

Who thinks of toil or danger, as o'er opposing rocks,
Deep vales, woods, heaths, and mountains we urge the subtle fox,
And when the sport is over with joy we homeward go,
And the gay chase in song retrace,
Though the stormy winds do blow.

Francis Astley, like his father, was a liberal supporter of the fine arts, and untiring in his efforts to contribute to the prosperity of Dukinfield. Among other acts, he planted there over 40,000 trees, an effort which won for him in 1807 the silver medal of the Society for the Improvement of Agriculture. He commenced iron works in the township, but as they were a complete failure he sunk a fortune in the enterprise, and is further represented to have lost large sums through his benevolent efforts to mitigate the distress caused in the district at the time of the war with France. Mr. Astley's income must have been very small at that period, since he is said to have remitted the rents of his tenants on account of the distress then prevalent. But the discovery of large deposits of coal on the estate opened up a source of enormous wealth. Mr. Astley, like each of the heads of his family, filled the office of High Sheriff of Cheshire, and, in the words of a local writer, his procession was "attended by such a retinue of friends and tenants as was probably never equalled in Cheshire, and with a profuse splendour which is yet remembered as a notable event in the county, and especially in the city of Chester." He died in 1825, and was buried at Dukinfield.

By his wife, Susan Fishe, the daughter of John Palmer, he had issue, John Dukinfield Astley (who was killed by a fall from a window when only 16 weeks old), and Francis Dukinfield Palmer Astley, born in 1825. Of the latter, who succeeded his father, and was High Sheriff in 1854, Mr. John Hibbert writes :— "He was a man who inherited his predecessors' talents and virtues with the advantage of more practical wisdom. As an

English landlord many of his class would do well to imitate him in the management of their estates. If proof of this were required, the answer might be given in one word, inscribed upon the chief work of our greatest architect—'circumspice.'"

Francis Dukinfield Palmer Astley married the daughter of General Sir H. D. Jones, and had issue, Francis Dukinfield, born 1853, who was drowned in Canada by the upsetting of a canoe in 1880. As the last named was unmarried at the time of his death, the estates then devolved on his three sisters, Gertrude Susan, who married A. Wm. Nicholson, Esq.; Constance Charlotte Astley; and Beatrice Emma Astley, who married on the 11th October, 1887, John Frederick Cheetham, Esq., of Eastwood, Stalybridge.

THE REV. C. T. ASTLEY.

The present male representative of the Astleys in England is the Rev. Charles Tamberlain Astley, son of John William Astley, the second son of John Astley, the artist, by his third marriage with Miss Wagstaffe.

John William Astley was born in 1785, and had 12 children. The eldest son, John William, died in 1856, without male issue.

The second died in infancy. The third, Francis, married, and had two sons, who, however, left no male issue. The fourth son, Charles Tamberlain, is the Rev. C. T. Astley referred to, and is the Pastor of the English Presbyterian Church at Llandudno. He was born in 1825, and married Georgina Ellen, daughter of Very Rev. W. Pearson, Dean of Salisbury, and has an only surviving son, the Rev. Hugh John Dukinfield Astley, born 29th Sept., 1856, at present Rector of East Rudham, Norfolk. The Rev. H. J. Dukinfield Astley married first in 1882 Mary Louise, daughter of G. Appleton, Esq., M.D., of The Lizard, Cornwall (she died in 1884), and secondly in 1885, Laura Edith Catherine Brett, great grand daughter of the 8th Duke of Somerset.

The Rev. H. J. Astley is deeply interested in archæological subjects, and is Hon. Editorial Secretary of the British Archæological Association, London. He is noted as a writer on various subjects, and contributed to the *Anglo-Catholic*, an article critising the Archbishop of Canterbury's Charge, 1898. He has written at different times to the *British Archæological Journal*, the *Athenæum*, and other papers.

The name Dukinfield has been ascribed by some authorities to the Saxon term—Dokenveldt, "the Field of the Raven." This theory is referred to in the general history of the district. A later idea is that the name comes from Dockweed or "Dockens," which at one time grew abundantly in the neighbourhood.

Dukinfield was incorporated in 1899.

BITS OF OLD-TIME HYDE.

In the Stockport Church Register there is the following :—

Given by Hamnett Hyde Esq. ye day yt Mary his wyffe was buried beinge ye 28 of March 1639 the summe of sixe pounds thirteene shillings eight pence towards ye raiseing a stocke for ye poore ye increase whereoff yeardly is to be distributed among ym wch sayd sume I say recd.

By me

ED. SHALLCROSSE.

AN OLD REPORT.—"At a meeting of the principal inhabitants of the different townships of Hyde in Cheshire, Houghton and Denton in Lancashire, held the 19th day of November, 1783, at

the Chapel House Inn, in Denton, it was mutually agreed to associate themselves together in a society for the purpose of preserving themselves and property from the injuries occurring from robbers, thieves, etc. The following rewards to be paid on conviction of offenders.

	£	s.	d.
For Burglary	3	3	0
House Breaking	2	2	0
Highway or Footpad Robbery	3	3	0
Stealing or Maiming any Horse, Mare, Gelding, Cow, or Calf	3	3	0
Stealing Pigs or Poultry	1	1	0
Robbing any Orchard, Garden, or Fish Pond ...	1	1	0
Breaking or Cutting Trees	1	1	0
Stealing Gates or any Iron Work thereto... ...	1	1	0
Breaking Hedges, Posts, or Rails	0	10	0
Stealing Corn or Grain out of any field or barn, threshed or un-threshed	2	2	0
Stealing Grass or Hay, growing or standing in stocks, or cocks, or damaging any Waggons, Carts, Ploughs, or other implements of husbandry	1	1	0
Stealing Turnips from and out of any field ...	0	5	0
For wilfully setting fire to any House, Out-house, Barn, Stack, Rick, or Cock of Corn, Hay, Straw, Wood or Furze	3	3	0
Stealing any Coal from any coal pit hill	1	1	0

And for any other crime or felonious act not before mentioned, such rewards as the Committee shall think proper to allow."

Bygones.—Near to Croft Street (not far from where Messrs. Hervey Smith & Sons' office now stands) there was formerly a village Pinfold, or Pound, for the accommodation of stray cattle. Close by were the village stocks, in which the unruly were brought to repentance. Most of the older inhabitants of Hyde can remember the reservoirs, which at one time covered almost the whole of the present market. These reservoirs were originally "tan pits," used by the Hegginbothams, who resided at a farm situated on what is now a portion of Corporation Street, and who carried on the trade of tanning.

Before the days of railway trains, Hyde communicated with Manchester by means of waggons and "coaches." There was a service of stage coaches running twice a day from Hyde to Manchester, instituted in 1828 by a Mr. Spencer, of the Crown

Inn, Hyde Lane. Later, two well-known worthies, Samuel Perrin and Walter Bradbury, ran coaches. Stage coaches were also run by a man named Garlick from the Commercial Inn, Newton, and were continued for many years. At one time there was a service of "packet boats" running on the canal. Mr. Joel Wainwright gives a good account of this service of boats. He states that the boats travelled fast enough, but the delays caused at the stopping places, first by the captain having to look up the passengers, then by the passengers having to look up the captain, enabled a good pedestrian to give the boats a start and come in a winner.

Waterworks were established in Hyde in 1831, by Mr. Thomas Mottram. Gas works were erected in Back Lane in 1844. Isaac Booth was the proprietor of the gas works. The price charged to the consumer in 1850 was 7s. per 1,000 cubic feet.

At the meeting of the British Association, held at Newcastle in 1838, Mr. Felkin, of Nottingham, read "An abstract of the annual report of the overseers of the township of Hyde," with explanatory remarks. The paper excited considerable attention at the time, and was copied into most English and American journals. From it we learn that the population in 1800 was 830, and the poor rate was 12s. per head per annum, while at that time (1838) the population was 11,000, and the poor rate 6d. per head per annum. The number of paupers in Hyde in the last mentioned year was nine, four men and five women, the former received £26 10s. 6d., and the latter £29 14s. 4d.; there were 24 other cases of pauper expense, amounting on the whole to £207 3s. 10d. The inhabitants were occupied in spinning, weaving, mining, "and in the ordinary retail business of a small market town." There were 35 steam engines, and about 6,000 hands employed in the mills. "In these works 48,000 lbs. of cotton wool were spun into yarn No. 24, and woven by 1,200 looms, working at the rate of 125 shoots per minute, into 1,500 pieces of 25 yards long." In the mills Mr. Felkin visited, the 1,500 or 1,600 hands employed were paid fortnightly, at an average of £1,000 per week, viz., children 3s. to 5s., women 12s., men 24s. or 25s. In 36 years there had been only three committals for felonies, and these only of minor importance.

CAPTAIN WHITLE'S WIND.

The name of Captain Whitle's Wind was given to a certain terrific and sudden hurricane which swept over these parts in the last century. The effect of this storm was tremendous, and the district bore many signs of the devastating powers of the gale. One Hyde instance will suffice here. In the orchard adjoining the old white farm which still stands in the bottom of Church Brow, close to the St. George's Vicarage, a great tree was blown down, and for long after was known as Captain Whitle's tree. Now for the derivation of the title. Captain Whitle lived at Hollingworth Hall, and was a stout old sea-dog of the days when English ships were reaping plunder on the Spanish main. He is said to have been officer on the first English ship of war that ever sailed the China seas. The Captain died at Hollingworth, and was buried at Mottram Church, where, so runs the tale, when the bearers emerged from the church doors with the coffin on their shoulders to carry it to the grave, the storm referred to burst on them in all its fury, blew the coffin from their grasp, and carried it, bump, bump, down the old grave-yard, terrifying the beholders, as well as dashing them about with as little mercy as it treated the corpse. That gale was known henceforth as Captain Whitle's Wind not only in Mottram but far beyond the windings of pleasant Longdendale. The inhabitants of Mottram and its neighbourhood were very superstitious individuals, and many an old worthy would huddle up in the chimney corner on a fierce night, when the wind howled without, and the gale screamed past, firmly convinced that the gruff old seaman rode in ghostly state upon the wings of the storm.

LEECH AND THE LAWYER.

No record of old Hyde would be complete that omitted mention of old William Leech and the lawyer. The tale runs that a certain lawyer from Glossop, who practised in the Hyde Court, had so badgered a witness that the latter sought for means of revenge. Out in the street the victim met the hero of the following ballad, who was mounted on a terribly high horse, and knowing the lawyer's liking for high steeds he put Leech up to accosting the advocate as he passed on his homeward ride up Mottram Road. The story is told by a local poet, and the ballad occupies a strong place in the affections of the older generation.

Not long ago, there met two men
On Mottram Road, I'll not say when,
Each in his own peculiar way
Intent on business that day.

They each were mounted on a nag,
And of their worth did freely brag;
No other horse was worth a straw
Compared with that that carried Law.

But Leech, of course, would not say so,
For his one was the best to go;
A fence the mare feared not a jot,
But bolted over like a shot.

The lawyer, being fond of sport,
Thought to himself "This is the sort
To lead the hunt and show the way,
By Jove, I am in luck to-day."

But as he had been tricked before
With buying horses, less or more,
He thought he now would try a dodge,
So wanted Leech to jump a hedge.

"Nay, nay," said Leech, "I am no rider,
But you may, if you'll get astride her."
So up jumped Law, and in a crack
Was o'er the hedge, and soon came back.

Said Mr. Law, "the mare will suit;
What money will you want to boot
'Twixt yours and mine, and give me luck?"
"Well, dash," said Leech, "I want a ruck."

A little haggling 'twixt the pair
Took place, and Lawyer owned the mare,
Paying boot to Leech just seven pounds ten,
Who, laughing, thought—he's done again.

The lawyer said, "I'm right this round,
For the horse just sold I gave five pound."
"Well, well," said Leech, "the bargain's oer,
I now may tell, mine cost just four.

This made the Lawyer look quite blue,
And of the swap began to rue;
To Hyde he rode, ne'er drawing reins,
And put the mare up at the Queen's.

He asked the host if ought he knew
About the mare;—John looked askew,
And said "We'll send for Mr. Platt,"
Who said to Law, "You're done, that's flat."

This made the Lawyer look more queer,
He said "The mare may tarry here;
At public auction I think I'll stake her,
If she does not sell, the devil may take her."

Burial of a Suicide at Newton.—In the last century a Droylsden man named James Hill, who kept the Red Lion Inn at Droylsden, suddenly disappeared, and about a fortnight afterwards was found hanging in a tree in Newton Wood, near Hyde. A coroner's inquest pronounced it an act of suicide, and in accordance with the verdict the corpse was interred on May 21st, 1774, at three lane ends on Newton Moor. Much sympathy was exhibited towards Hill in Droylsden, and a band of resolute fellows, about three o'clock on the morning of the 5th June, disinterred his remains and re-buried them in Ashton Churchyard. A woman who met them spread information, and they were glad to convey back the body on the 16th of the same month, when the final interment took place at Newton Moor. A number of Droylsden folk joined to defray the expense of a gravestone, on which the following epitaph was neatly engraved :—

Here was deposited the body of the unfortunate
James Hill,
Late of Droylsden, who ended his life May 6th, 1774,
In the 42nd year of his age.
Unhappy Hill, with anxious cares oppressed,
Rashly presumed to find in Death his Rest ;
With this vague hope, in lonesome wood did he
Strangle himself, as jury did agree ;
For which a Christian burial he's denied,
And is consigned to lie at this wayside.
Reader,
Reflect what may be the consequence of a crime which excludes the possibility of repentance.

Writing of this event, Mr. John Thornely says — "I recollect this grave very well, and my old friend Robert Hall (of Kingston Mills) could repeat the above lines ; and he told me that the body of James Hill was first interred at four lane ends, where Bennett Street and Muslin Street is crossed by Ashton Road on Newton Moor. The re-interment was near the Commercial Inn, Newton Green (the inn was built at that time). Mr. Hall likewise said that, after many years, some person who was sentenced to death confessed that he and others murdered James Hill, and then hung him to the tree to hide their guilt. The particular wood was 'Springs Wood,' just below Newton Hall, where the footpath goes from the canal bank to Broomstair Bridge. Of course, the murder took place before the canal was made."

OLD ROADS—FORDS AND BRIDGES OVER RIVERS AND BROOKS.

It is generally accepted that field-paths or footpaths are the oldest roads in the country; they were made and used long before the land was brought into cultivation or enclosed with walls, hedges, or fences of any kind. Later, these paths were used for horses, and were called "bridle-paths;" and in course of time it was found necessary that certain of the roads should be used for wheeled conveyances. The Romans (who were grand-masters in road making), during their occupation of this country, made main and other roads to connect their various posts and settlements. Most of the main roads in the Kingdom are either on the site, or in the direction of the Roman roads. The Saxons seem to have been content with the roads left by the Romans, repairing them only when their Kings, with their retinue, moved from one place to another. Hence the name "King's Highway."

Up to modern days the roads in Great Britain were very bad, and in wet weather were almost impassable. In no part of the Kingdom were they worse than in Cheshire. Attempts were made at improvement towards the end of the 17th century, but it was not until well on in the 18th century that Parliament passed Acts for the making of new roads, and the diverting and mending of old ones, under trustees, who were empowered to erect gates and bars, and to take toll for the use of such roads. Parliament also passed Highway Acts, enabling townships to appoint surveyors and to collect rates for the repair of the roads in their respective districts. Counties and Hundreds were empowered to erect and repair bridges over the rivers and streams where desirable.

The remains of an ancient road can be traced from near Compstall, over Werneth Low to Godley Green (where it is obliterated for a short distance), at Tetlow Fold, Godley Hill, and near to Matley Old Hall—pointing to a road on Staley Moor, which leads to *Bucton Castle*, where the Ancient Britons had a stronghold. But the oldest important road in the district seems to be the road on the top of Werneth Low, which is said to be the Roman road from Stockport to the Roman station at Melandra Castle.

The main road in Hyde township has always been Hyde Lane, and was known as such when Hyde consisted only of

Hyde Hall and a few scattered farms, and had no pretentions to rank as a village. This lane was originally a sample of the country lane, being a causeway in the midst of two wide margins of grass, with deep ditches or small brooks on each side. There were the usual brambles and underwood, and in places the greensward widened out into a considerable strip of common land. On this common land squatters built cottages (there were several squatters' dwellings formerly standing in Hyde Lane just below Slack Mills).

Eventually the Lord of the Manor claimed as much of the common land as he could get.

Hyde Lane was never a good road in old days, and in winter and wet weather was almost impassable, as none of the brooks that crossed it were bridged or culverted until the beginning of the present century. The lane began at the entrance of the road from Lancashire into Cheshire. Crossing the river Tame by the ford from Broomstair, the road reached a point on the Hyde side of the river, just below the junction of the Tame and the brook coming from Godley and Newton (commonly called Wilson Brook). The road followed the course of the brook to the foot of "Bowker's" Brow (Kingston is a modern name), then it ascended the brow to the entrance gates to Hyde Hall (White Gates). The road to the hall was also the road to the Old Corn Mill, and to another ford which crossed the Tame below the Corn Mill, for Glass House Fold, the Coal Pits, and Haughton Green. In the year 17—, Squire George Clarke built a bridge over the river Tame at Broomstair, made a connecting road and another bridge over Wilson Brook to the foot of Bowker's Brow, and by agreement with the inhabitants of Hyde and Haughton, dedicated them to public use; he to have the old road, ford, etc., and the public to repair the bridge and new road for ever.

Hyde Lane crossed the canal by a bridge which is still known as Hyde Lane Bridge, and went on to Hollow Brow (now Newton Street.) When the Ashtons built the "Hollow Factory," early in the present century, Hollow Brow was only a Pack Horse Road, worn down between lofty banks, and so narrow that two horses could not pass. It was shaded by high hedges and trees. The road forded the brook at the bottom of the brow, and winding its way up the opposite slope, went along the Old Road to the junction

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with the ancient highway from Yorkshire to Lancashire (now called Muslin Street and Bennett Street.) The Yorkshire road came from Saltersbrook, the meeting place for the exchange of traffic by the Lancashire and Yorkshire carriers; it crossed the moors of Longdendale, Hollingworth, Matley Lane, Muslin Street, Bennett Street, Newton Hall, Dukinfield Hall, to Shepley Bridge (at one time the only bridge across the Tame in these parts.) At the time of the building of the Hollow Factory there was a water wheel on the Newton side of Wilson Brook, which worked "Pump Trees," up to the coal pit at Flowery Field. The Ashtons widened the Hollow Brow, built the bridge, and altered the road to its present course, and established a Toll Bar at Bayley Field, and tolled all wheeled vehicles until the road was taken over by the townships.

The point of junction of *Hollow Brow* with *Hyde Lane* was called *Atterclough*, and the length of the road from this point to *Hoviley Lane* was called Red Pump Street. *Hoviley Lane* branched off Hyde Lane at Squire Hegginbottom's house (now the District Bank at the corner of the market), and passing Ridling Pits, the beginning of Ridling Lane, went down Hoviley Brow and forded the *Lumn Brook* near the printworks' gates. From here it went to Hoviley Ford, which, previous to the building of the printworks, was opposite the site of the Talbot Inn, the brook having been diverted to its present course for the purposes of the works. After leaving this ford, the road skirted Newton Green (then common land), joined the road coming over Newton Moor from Ashton, then forded the brook from Goodier Bottoms, and finally went to Pudding Lane, which ran by Brook House Farm to Mottram.

Continuing from its junction with the Hoviley branch, Hyde Lane went past several old cottages and a farm, and "Hegginbothams" Tan Yards (now the site of Corporation Street), to where the brook crossed the road to run down Mill Wood to the river Tame. Next it passed some low-lying houses (Pigeon Houses, where Messrs. Hervey Smith & Sons' offices now stand), and the village Pinfold and the Stocks. It passed a footpath (now Union Street) leading across "Shepley Fields" to Ridling Lane, and, further on, a road leading to various farms and Wood End (Church Street). Higher up, on the easterly side of Hyde Lane, were several Squatters' cottages, which existed

until quite recently. The lane went by these to Tinker Hill, where a junction was made with Back Lane. This lane led to Walker Fold Lane, down Lumn Hollow, where an ancient bridle path, passing by Lumn Farm, branched off, and then it became Ridling Lane, until it joined Hoviley Lane at Ridling pits (on the site of Queen's Hotel, Clarendon Place).

From Back Lane to Smithy Fold, Hyde Lane had wide margins of grass land on each side. Smithy Fold was really a small hamlet with farm houses, cottages, etc., and the road passing through the midst of them. From this Fold Hyde Lane wound its way past Clough Gates, Back Bower Lane, and eventually became part of the Turnpike Road, close to which Hyde Chapel had been built in the year 1708.

EARLY COTTON MILLS AND THEIR NAMES.

In the olden time, before the introduction of machinery, spinning and weaving was carried on at nearly every farm in Hyde, and the cottagers were largely engaged in hand-loom weaving (chiefly linen, all the yarn being spun by hand). The increased demand for yarn, the introduction of cotton, the invention the carding engine and spinning jenny, caused all the streams in the neighbourhood to be used for turning the water-wheels of small mills which were built for carrying on the manufacture of cloth under these new conditions. The stream flowing from Werneth Low, down Gerrard's Hollow and Apethorn, boasted (with others) the mills known by the strange names of *Doctor's Factory*, *Jolly Bant*, and *Ess Hole*. A mill at Gibraltar, built by the Thornelys, was turned by the river Tame. Among other old mills in this neighbourhood were *Apethorn Mill*, built by the Ashtons ; a "Buck" mill (opposite Hyde Chapel), built by James Booth ; *Stone Mill*, in Gee Cross, built by Henry Booth (afterwards worked by Baron & Horsfield) ; a small mill, now in the stone quarry, near to Clough Gate ; and *Gower Hey Mill*, which was built by the Howards.

Slack Mills was built by Mr. Joseph Horsfield. The first part of *Greenfield Mill* was built by "Sally Rhodes ;" it was four windows long and four stories high, and was originally turned by a "horse and gin." *Greenfield* was afterwards enlarged by Mr. John Howard. Messrs. Charles and Thomas Howard built *Long Meadow Mill*.

Greencroft Mill (now Ed. Hibbert & Co.) was originally begun by Mr. John Ashton. *Providence Mill* (Mr. J. Walker) was erected by Mr. Tinker.

Birch Mill (near Hyde Railway Station, and now pulled down) was built by Mr. John Wharmby, and was the first factory built on the Hyde Estate. *Mill Wood Mill* was founded by Messrs. Samuel Hibbert and John Alcock (Hibbert & Nephew). *Barn Meadow Mill* was built by the Handford brothers.

Kingston Mill was built by Mr. Nathan Sidebotham and enlarged by his son, Mr. John Sidebotham. After the death of the latter it was worked by the late Mr. Robert Hall, J.P., then by his son, Mr. Joshua Hall. This mill is spoken of by Mr. S. Hadfield as Ousel Factory. (The name of Kingston is said to have been given to the place by one of the Clarkes, as certain features of the neighbourhood bore a resemblance to a portion of the Clarke estates near Kingston in Jamaica.)

Carrfield and *Bayley Field Mills* were built by Mr. Thomas Ashton (senior). *Throstle Bank Mill* by the late Mr. Thomas Ashton and Mr. John Alcock (Ashton Brothers); and *Newton Bank Printworks* were built by Mr. Benjamin Ashton.

Mr. Randal Hibbert built *Boston Mills*, and it was at these mills that the Ashtons first began cotton spinning. *Godley Mill* was built by Mr. Thomas Turner. *High Street Mill* (Godley) by Mr. Alexander Wylde Thornely and his brothers.

OLD FARMS FORMERLY EXISTING IN HYDE.

Before the development of the cotton trade, the township of Hyde was divided into farms. The following list of old farms will be found to cover the whole of the township. Some of the old buildings still remain :—

Hyde Hall Farm (attached to Hyde Hall).
An old farm, now Kingston, spoken of as Ousel Farm by old inhabitants.
Wilson Brook, or Bowler's Farm.
Bowker's Farm, top of Bowker Brow.
An old Farm just below the Canal Bridge.
Green End Farm (now Grafton Street, etc., etc.)

An old Farm near the junction of Manchester Road and Newton Street.
Hegginbottom's Farm (Red Pump Street, near Bank).
Hegginbottom's Farm (Tanners, near Corporation Street).
Hoviley Farm (Mottram's).
Lumn Farm (Shepley's).
Kenyon's Farm, between the Lumn and Ewen Fields and Bankey Fields.
Bankey Fields Farm.
Owen (Ewen) Fields Farm.
Walker Fold Farm (Clarke's).
Walker Fold Farm (Stopford's).
Back Bower Farm (Clarke's).
Back Bower Farm (Sandiford's).
Ralph Fold, Smithy Fold, Silver Hill, Slack Farm, Shepley Fold Farm, New England, Knott Fold, Foxholes, Clough Fold (Old Isaac's), Wylde Tenement, or Thornely Fold (down Church Brow), Wood End Farm, Siddal Farm (off Church Street), an old Farm at the end of Church Street, Hambleton's Farm.

PEAK FOREST CANAL.

This canal branches from the Manchester, Ashton, and Huddersfield Canal near the aqueduct at Dukinfield. The Act relating to it was passed in 1794. The chief promoters of the canal were Samuel Oldknow, of Marple; George Hyde Clarke, of Hyde Hall; John Sidebotham, of Hoviley; Thomas Sidebotham, of Haughton; and Henry Barton, of Strines. The canal has a singularly crooked course all the way from Dukinfield to Bugsworth. Between Romiley and Marple it crosses the deep valley of the Goyt on an aqueduct (built about 1801-2), which for many years was considered one of the greatest engineering feats of the age. This aqueduct took seven years to complete, and seven men lost their lives in the work. It is worthy of note that the railway viaduct which crosses the same valley (and which is much higher, being almost four times the size of the aqueduct), was built in 1862 in just over twelve months. A pedestrian going along the canal bank from Dukinfield to Marple, will notice that the towing path is on the right side all the way, with the exception of the short distance between Hyde Lane Bridge and Clarke's Bridge at Wood End. This length of the path was put on the East (left) side of the canal with the intention of

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protecting Squire Clarke's gardens at Hyde Hall from trespass. The canal bridges in the Hyde District are :—*Dukinfield Hall Bridge ; Rylance Bridge*, near Newton Hall ; *Bowler's Bridge*, near Flowery Field and Kingston ; *Hyde Lane Bridge*, near Hyde Colliery ; *Clarke's Bridge* at Wood End.

TURNPIKE ROADS.

There are two turnpike roads in Hyde Township. The Stockport and Mottram Turnpike Road was made in 1765, by John Metcalfe, better known as Blind Jack, of Knaresborough. Metcalfe, who had served with the English forces at the battles of Falkirk and Culloden in the rebellion of 1745, began road-making in 1765. For the road between Stockport and Mottram he received the sum of £3,200. The Manchester and Hyde Turnpike Road, from Ardwick Green to Hyde Lane Bridge, was made in 1818, and continued through Godley, Matley, Hattersley, to Mottram (Mottram New Road) under an Act passed in 1833. Captain Clarke took an active part in superintending the making of the branch from Ardwick to Hyde. He also formally opened the extension from Hyde to Mottram, on October 13th, 1835. The latter ceremony was marked by a lengthy procession of carriages, horsemen, and foot-passengers.

THE HYDE TOWNSHIP BOOKS.

The Township Books of Hyde, which are preserved at the Town Hall, only date back to the year 1814. They contain few entries that call for comment, and, if anything, are distinguished for an absence of the curious, quaintly worded items which form so interesting a feature of most township books of that period. The fly-leaf of the earliest book is embellished with a beautifully written inscription setting forth that

This book was bought
by
Joseph Tinker,
Surveyor
of the
Highways in Hyde,
for the use of himself and
his successors,
A.D., 1814.

The most notable entries are the following :—

Copy of a measurement of the Roads in the Township of Hyde taken in October, 1808.

Viz., Turnpike Road.	Yards
From Godley Green to a Mere Stone near the Watering Trough	537
Thence to another Mere Stone on the other side do. 84 yds. in Werneth	
Thence to a Sewer at Higham Lane	375
Mr. Horsfield's Factory to John Redfern's Wall in Werneth	173
Total	1,085

By Road.

From Broomstair Bridge to Hunt Croft Quarry	2,991
Hoviley Bridge to Lane End at Red Pump	676
Back Lane End to Riddling Pit	1,005
Total	4,672

	M.	F.	P.	YDS.	
Turnpike Road	0	4	37	1½	By Road more than 4¼ to 1 of Turnpike Road.
By Road	2	5	9	2½	

1815.—To John Darbyshire for Liquor when settling the accounts £1 1 0

(There are many entries similar in character to the above).

1819.—Tools belonging to the Township :—2 Hammers, 1 Old Hammer, 4 Picks, 3 Bars, 3 Drills, 1 Stemmer, 1 Scraper, 1 Spindle, 2 Shovels (old and new), 2 Spades (old and new), 2 Wheelbarrows, 1 Beater, 1 Wedge, 6 Planks.

1820.—Paid for a Birch Besom for Paviors	5d.
Paid for a Pavior's Riddle	4 6
Liquor at a Public Meeting when consulting about building a Pound	7 0
Liquor at a Public Meeting held respecting Broomstair Bridge	8 0

1826.—Sept. 22.—At a Meeting held at Mr. W. Shaws, the Navigation Inn, it was agreed that all people who had property adjoining the highway, and have had or may have occasion to make Soughs, or Main Sewers, shall make and keep the same in sufficient repair at their own expense from henceforth and for ever hereafter.

1830.—Oct. 20th. Memorandum.—That it was mutually agreed and ordered that the Road or way called Acorn Lane must at the earliest proper time be formed and paved with good Bolders in the middle and Rock stone at each side, of a proper width, or from channel to channel with edge stones on the footpath side, the footpath to be proper formed and cornered, the whole to be done with a good material and in as fit and workmanlike manner as is possible.

In the earlier years of the century the accounts are invariably sworn before George Hyde Clarke, Esq., of Hyde Hall. His son, Captain Hyde John Clarke, R.N., J.P., was Surveyor in 1825.

The Werneth Township Book begins with the declaration that :—

"This book was bought by James Horsfield, Surveyor of the Highways in Werneth for the use of Himself and Successors, A.D., 1821.

Other entries are :—

Measurements of the Highways in Werneth, 2nd Sept., 1815.

Viz., Turnpike.	Yards
Between the Mere Stones on each side the Watering Trough	84
From the Sewer near Higham Lane to Flash Brook.. ...	256
From the parting of the Road in Hyde near the schoolhouse to the Mere Stone at Ralph Burgesses in Bredbury	1257
	1,597

By Ways.

Acorn Lane by Hunt Croft	260
Devil's Step	78
Joel's Lane to meet the Old Road	920
Old Road from Ann Clayton's to meet Joel's Lane	877
Do. from Stone Quarry to Hill End, Romiley	1,898
Pin Fold Lane meeting Romiley	198
100 yds. from Compstall Bridge to Mere Stone	140
Foot of Cowley Shaw Brow to Jos. Hibberts	872
Branch of Compstall Road by do. do. Garden to the Old Road	85
	5,328

Beyond the extracts given above there are only the usual details of payments for carting stone, tipping ashes, relief of the poor, etc., and a most elaborate account of all the numerous bastardy cases of the first 30 years of the 19th century.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE ON MELANDRA CASTLE.

Since the account of Melandra Castle (pages 6-11) was printed, the work of excavation has been largely carried on. The discoveries made within the last few days throw considerable light upon the earlier history of the station, and necessitate some additional notice of this important Roman stronghold. On page 7, Chapter II., of the present volume, it is stated that there are "distinct signs of gates, one situated at each of the four angles." This is an error, and for "gates" the reader is requested to substitute the word "towers." The gates of the station were in the middle of the walls; the angles were protected by towers.

The work of excavation at Melandra was brought about through the persistent efforts of Mr. Robert Hamnett, of Glossop. The lectures of that gentleman having called attention to the Roman station, a local committee was formed, and the consent of Lord Howard, of Glossop, being readily given, the excavators commenced their task. The committee have secured the services of Mr. Garstang, B.A., of Oxford, a gentleman who has distinguished himself as conductor of the excavations at Roman Ribchester. Under the directions of this gentleman and Mr. Hamnett the work has rapidly progressed. The result is to prove beyond all doubt that Melandra was a station of great strength and importance. It has been the privilege of the writer to visit the site of the station during the August of 1899, in company with Mr. Garstang, Mr. Hamnett, and the members of the Excavation Committee, and to be an eye-witness of the operations. So far the foundations of the walls have been uncovered, disclosing masonry of the most substantial character. The stones show signs of having been dressed not by hammer and chisel, but with a pick or a kind of hack. The walls are perfectly preserved, the masonry as solid and straight as though it had only been set yesterday. The remains of one of the towers, about 14ft. wide, have been uncovered, and also the principal entrances or gateways. The foundations of the latter are perfect, with several courses of stone remaining, showing the guard chamber and tower combined on the left hand side, and a door on the right

hand side of the gateway. The keystone of one of the two arches of the gateway still remains. What is supposed to be the ruin of an oven has been discovered near the south west tower. The tiles, with one exception, are in a dilapidated state, but in their original positions. Pieces of pottery, charcoal, and other fragments have been found.

Melandra Castle is supposed to be the Roman station called *Zerdotalia* by Thomson Watkin. The name *Melandra* is said to be a Roman name derived from the Greek *Melandryon,* which signifies "heart of oak," or "the heart in the oak." If this be so the name was probably given to the fort on account of the great number of oak trees which at one time most likely surrounded it. Of the Roman roads leading from the station, one went to Brough, near Hope, another to Buxton, a third through Stockport to Manchester, and a fourth through the Hague, Mottram, and towards Lane Head, where it joined the great road to York.

Among the coins found in the vicinity of Melandra, are the following:—one of the Emperor Domitian, who reigned 81-96; a silver Denarius; Emperor Trajan, 98-117; one of the reign of Alexander Severus, 222-235; one about the date 261 (with this was discovered part of a die, containing an engraving something like the Prince of Wales feathers—see illustration on page 8—this is said to have been used by goldsmiths for stamping gold and silver ornaments). A coin of the British Emperor Carausius, 287-293.

ERRATUM.

On page 306 : The date of the "Return of the Commissioners" respecting Mottram Church, should be 1548, and not 1848 as printed.

ERRATA.

On page 26—In the 20th line from top, for *Earl* read *Lord.*

,, 70— ,, 11th ,, bottom, for 40,000 read 19,000.

,, 79— ,, 4th ,, bottom, insert the words "*of the God and Father*" after worship.

,, 165— ,, 14th ,, top, for 79 read 74.

,, 165— ,, 15th ,, top, for *Spinner* read *Weaver.*

,, 165— ,, 2nd ,, bottom, read "upwards of 340 sermons and addresses delivered during his episcopacy."

,, 278— ,, 6th ,, bottom, for *sight* read *site.*

,, 291— ,, 2nd ,, bottom, the Chapel was built by the congregation and its friends, not by the Scott family.

,, 319— ,, 15th ,, top, for *H. Le Neve Foster* read *R. Le Neve Foster.*

,, 342— ,, 19th ,, top, insert "of" after invention.

,, 343— ,, 8th ,, top, for *meadow* read *field.*